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Faculty Senate Meeting

November 16 1999

Holloway Hall Room 119

Present: Carolyn Bowden Elizabeth Curtin (Secretary) Tom Erskine Kathy Fox Greg Ference (Vice President) Joel Jenne Peter Lade (President) Dave Parker Kathleen Shannon (Webmaster) Cal Thomas Marvin Tossey Don Whaley E.J. Crane Jim McCallops Jerome DeRidder David Rieck Fatollah Salimian Kashi Khazeh

Dr. Lade opened the meeting. The motion concerning Education 200 was not tabled at the last meeting so it does not carry over to this meeting.

UCC's acceptance of Educ 200 for general ed credit.

Dr. Tossey made a motion to send the Education 200 issue to a committee made up of faculty from the Fulton and Seidel schools and the deans from the two schools. The motion was seconded.

Discussion of the motion included the following points:

-- the question about any discussions among deans and the provost that have taken place thus far

-- discussion of whether this issue and particularly the discussion of what constitutes a social science course should take place now in light of the upcoming Gen Ed Task Force report

--suggestion that the breadth of the issue goes beyond the concerns of the two schools mentioned in the motion.

--the need for a better understanding of the Education Dept reasoning in proposing this course

-- the need for clarification of Educ 200's relationship to the professional program

-- the question of how major a change this UCC action represents

-- the need to look at the proposed course in view of the published criteria for gen ed Group 2 courses.

-- the question of whether a subcommittee or the whole Senate needed to look at the materials surrounding the decision.

Dr. Tossey accepted a friendly amendment to his motion to the effect that the Senate would request that faculty from the two schools and deans and also a subcommittee of the Senate would gather information and report back to the Senate in December. The motion was defeated 4 votes in favor 13 against.

Mr. Whaley made a motion that the Senate take up this issue directly and dedicate a meeting specifically to this issue and gather information a syllabus of the course and statements from those who proposed the change the members of the curriculum committee perhaps the Fulton School chairs and anyone else who could provide information about the course and the decision.

Dr. Lade summed up the motion by stating that the motion is that the Senate designate a meeting exclusively for discussion of this topic with an opportunity for Senators to have reviewed the supporting materials that are available from the UCC as well as inviting interested parties to report.

Dr. Jenne asked whether we would be discussing this course or a larger issue about general education criteria in general. Mr. Whaley stated that we cannot discuss the course without discussing a larger issue that Dr. Thomas mentioned the issue of whether or not professional programs should be able to offer gen ed courses.

Dr. Jenne questioned whether the Bylaws allowed the Senate to examine the UCC's decision. Mr. Whaley took the position that the final word on the curriculum is that of the faculty and that the voice of the faculty is the Faculty Senate so in this case it is the faculty's right to review the decision. The process by which the issue came to the Senate that is through the designated senator on the committee was also reviewed.

Dr. Lade repeated the motion which was to dedicate a Senate meeting to the discussion of the circumstances that led to the UCC's acceptance of the Educ 200 as a general education course and it has been seconded.

Further discussion about the proposal and its relationship to the issue raised by Dr. Cal Thomas continued. (Dr. Thomas had suggested that we needed to discuss the broader question of whether professional programs should offer general ed courses.) Dr. Tossey suggested that the two issues were completely different and that Dr. Thomas's issue be discussed first.

After much discussion including suggestions that guidelines about curriculum and MHEC regulations be added to the information pool Dr. Thomas offered an amendment that the issue of professional programs offering gen ed courses be included in the discussion. Dr. Whaley accepted the amendment as friendly.

Dr. Lade stated the motion again that the Senate dedicate a meeting to discuss the concerns that were brought about by the UCC's acceptance of Educ 200 as a general education course and its wider implications for general education. The motion passed 13 in favor 4 opposed.

Faculty Welfare's Proposal for a New Form for Faculty Evaluation

Dr. Seldomridge Chair of Faculty Welfare addressed the issue of the faculty evaluation which was reviewed and revised by the Faculty Welfare Committee. The committee felt that the form would be easier for chairs to use and would provide documentation for non-tenured faculty concerning their progress.

During the discussion the following issues were raised:

-- since different departments and schools used different forms why did we need to discuss this form?

(Faculty Welfare had been asked by Jim Lackie to review a form he sent them.)

-- since the committee had reduced the number of evaluation categories from five to two would the form cut back on necessary information?

-- did the form suggest that we were unwilling to grade ourselves?

-- how would the form help or hinder the promotions process?

-- would the form free up chairs' time by cutting back on the time spent on yearly evaluations and in so doing encourage more faculty to serve as chair?

-- how did the form relate to any departmental forms

A motion was made to continue this discussion at a later meeting. The motion was carried.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 pm. Dr. Lade stated that the motion was seconded.

Motions During the Meeting

A motion to send the whole Education 200 issue to a committee made up of faculty from the two schools the deans from the two schools as well as a subcommittee of the faculty: The motion failed 4 votes in favor 13 opposed.

A motion that the Senate would dedicate a meeting specifically for this issue and gather information a syllabus of the course and statements from whoever proposed the change the members of the curriculum the Fulton Chairs and anyone else who provide pertinent information about the issues. A friendly amendment was accepted that this discussion would include a look at the broader issue of professional schools offering gen ed courses.

Dr. Lade's summary of the motion: the Senate would dedicated a meeting to discuss the concerns that were brought about by the UCC's acceptance of Educ 200 as a general education course and its wider implications for general education. The motion passed 13 in favor 4 opposed.

A motion was made to continue the discussion of faculty evaluation form at a later meeting. The motion was carried.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 pm.

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