

Minutes of the
SU Faculty Senate Meeting
Feb. 12, 2008
HH 119

Senators present –Clarke, Curtin, Gilkey, Hopson, Khazeh, Lawler, Mullins, O'Loughlin, Rieck, Ritenour, Robinson, Rutuelo, Scott, Shannon, Shipper and Zaprowski

Senators absent – Diriker and Root

1. Pres. Curtin called the meeting to order at 3:34; a quorum was present.
2. The minutes from the Dec. 6 meeting were accepted as written.
3. **Announcements from Pres. Curtin**
 - a. Pres. Curtin had the senators introduce themselves as there are **two new senators** this semester, John-James Rutuelo from Comm Arts is replacing Kurt Ludwick as an at-large senator and Vicki Root from Social Work is replacing Ed Robeck as a Seidel senator.
 - b. It was recently recognized that **NCUR overlaps with the last two days of Program Planning**. The plan is to postpone those two days until Monday & Tuesday of the following week; this shouldn't affect other groups as it is the freshmen that will be advised those days. The registration dates will also be pushed back two days.
 - c. Faculty from the Honors program have recently sent Pres. Curtin **a proposal to consider adding pluses and minuses to the UG grading system**. This had been discussed and voted down, by a narrow margin, in 1999. The proposal was also sent to the Academic Policies Committee; we'll wait for the recommendation from that committee.
 - d. A **faculty election** will be held soon to vote on a number of Bylaws changes – the establishment of the Finance Committee and the Academic Assessment Committee, and changes in the name and bylaws of the Learning Technology and, depending on today's meeting, the University Curriculum Committees and changes to the membership of Admissions and Readmissions. For any bylaws vote, the changes must be announced at least a week before the election and the faculty must be given a week in which to vote. Also, for a bylaws amendment to pass at least 75 faculty must vote and at least 2/3's of those voting must vote yes. So senators are asked to get the word out & encourage their constituents to vote and vote yes. Sen. Shannon asked for a clarification to be sure that the changes would not be listed as a single package, and that faculty could vote separately on each proposed change – that is the case. Sen. O'Loughlin thanked Kelly Fiala for accepting the job of Membership and Elections Committee chair.
4. **A few words from the Administration – Tom Jones**
 - a. A lot going on, but not ready to report on, except two issues. The first concerns **assessment and accountability** which is an issue for the USM as well as

nationwide. Because higher ed leaders heard the federal government making noises about assessment & accountability (especially as costs of higher ed rise), they think it makes sense to develop a system before the feds develop one and force it on us. So the AASCU (the Am Assoc of State Colleges and Universities) and the NASULGC (National Assoc of State University Land Grant Colleges) have proposed the Voluntary System of Accountability. As Brit Kirwan is the chair of the presidential advisory committee for the VSA, he would like all institutions in the system to sign up as members. We already gather much of the info that is required for this; but this would make it more public (on a web page). The most controversial aspect of this is the student outcomes assessment part – assessing how much students learned overall in their college experience – including general ed. Some of this also fits in with what we have to do for Middle states accreditation. Bob Tardiff introduced someone who will be very involved with this – Kara Siegert the new Director for University Analysis, Reporting and Assessment. Jones mentioned that it is critical that we (the faculty) approve and move forward with the new Assessment Committee as that will also be closely involved. He will send an e-mail to the faculty encouraging them to vote and approve the bylaws change establishing the committee. There are lots of opportunities for personalizing this and modifying it to meet our needs, but we need to be sure there is faculty input. Curtin mentioned that this was an item of concern among the system senate presidents at a meeting at Adelphi in the fall, particularly that it had gotten so far along with so little faculty involvement – this is something that needs to come from the bottom up. Jones was just at a provosts' meeting and this was a big topic. Shannon asked whether it would be possible to hold a workshop to get us up to speed with the various options that are available. Jones would definitely support that, there are a lot of options; three companies have tests available.

- b. **Space and Moves** – The Space Utilization Committee (of the Forum) hadn't met for 18 months, in part because there haven't been many little bits of space available recently. But they met recently to revise their mission, in light of recent administrative changes (including Terrence MaCann being hired as facilities planner) and the fact that the committee never seemed to function efficiently. They will be continuing that conversation in a meeting next week – the result could be anywhere from the committee disbanding to it continuing on as it has. Without the committee, the administration has looked at major moves and space problems for the next few years in light of the TETC opening in fall, and a new Perdue building on line. The enrollment advisory consultants, Noel/Levitz, recommend a "one stop shop" for all student needs in one place. Curtin expressed concern among faculty that faculty space seems to take a back seat to students and various administrative needs. Jones indicated that the proposed moves should open up more/more convenient spaces for faculty offices – ex. the Perdue wing of HH will be available. Shannon asked when chairs would know about the classroom allocations for fall; Jackie Maisel said that will be coming out soon.

5. Old Business

- a. **Parking for Part-time faculty** – In 2005, the senate discussed and sent to the administration, a recommendation that free parking be provided to part-time faculty, but never received a response. Curtin recently asked Provost Jones to consider and respond to this request.

- b. **Charges to Committees** – The charge to the Long Range Academic Planning Committee to survey the faculty for high priority items for the strategic plan is not as crucial now that Strategic Planning Workshops are being held specifically to get input from faculty (and staff). Senators are encouraged to attend at least one of these (more below). The Promotions committee has been working on their charge of examining evaluation criteria (see more below). Curtin asked all designated senators to review their committee's bylaws description to see whether that needs to be changed or if the committee is no longer needed (in the committee members' opinion) and to e-mail her by mid-March. Shannon mentioned that some committees that rarely meet are potentially very important (ex. Retrenchment Appeals); perhaps for those would could elect members only when they are needed. Sen. Mullins mentioned that the Faculty Development committee is discussing whether/how often development workshops need to be held and the method used to allocate travel money. Senators & other faculty with opinions on either of these should e-mail him. Sen. Shipper suggested that Long Range Academic Planning overlaps with the Strategic Planning Committee; Curtin reminded that Strategic Planning is not a senate committee, is a larger group, but does have a faculty rep. Sen. Zaprowski suggested that it's the Forum committees that need restructuring; Curtin said there has been talk of this in general, she'll bring it up at the next meeting of the executives of the three governance groups.
- c. **Fall Break Update** – Bob Tardiff spoke with USM administrators about the possibility of SU starting early (adding a Thurs & Friday to the start of the semester) and having a long weekend midway through the semester. He found that 1) The system wants all institutions to have the same start dates as it is important for inter-institutional registrations. 2) The registrars for the system have already set the schedule for the period, 2010-2016. So, a change before 2016 would mean revising that (and it took a year to get it all straight). 3) We would need to get agreement among the majority of the institutions in the system that are on the common 10-month calendar. So it can be done, but it's a big process. Shannon suggested that we work on getting support for a fall break beginning in 2017; at least current junior faculty would still be around to benefit. Sen. Scott suggested that a good place to begin the conversation would be at CUSF; Curtin will ask Dave Parker to take to next CUSF meeting. Scott thinks if we lead others will follow.
- d. **Bylaws changes to UCC** – Curtin – Senators received two versions of the committee description with the changes to the membership; the second is grammatically correct. But neither has the changes in name and sections A. and B. that were passed by the senate at the Oct. 9, 2007 meeting. Curtin asked for a friendly amendment to add back in those changes. Sen. Khazeh suggested that in section A. "the chairs of several departments" should be changed to "Deans of schools", as that would fit better with the actual process. Shannon thought that section B. rather than A. is the section that deals with the process. In addition, this is a new issue that would need to go back to the committee. Shannon moved to approve the proposed changes to the committee membership. Seconded by Scott.

Hand vote, 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions. Motion carries. This will be forwarded for a full faculty vote.

6. **Upcoming Business–**

- a. **Strategic Planning Workshops** – Faculty have recently received an e-mail announcing about 10 workshops to be held between now and the end of the month to receive input from faculty and staff regarding the top priorities for the new strategic plan. Senators are encouraged to attend at least one of these and to encourage their constituents to attend. In addition, because this is so important, Curtin is canceling the next senate meeting and at that time scheduling a strategic planning workshop specifically for senators to be held in the Pocomoke Room of the GUC, at 3:30 PM, Feb. 26. She encouraged senators to attend one of the other sessions as well as this one; as we may get a different perspective by attending another first or may take some perspectives from our session to another we attend after. But if you only attend one, it should be the senate session. Sen. Hopson asked whether there would be a specific session for chairs; no.
- b. **Evaluation Criteria** – the Promotions Committee has been looking at the language in the faculty handbook regarding promotion and tenure. Then Pres. Dudley-Eshbach addressed the topic in her broadcast message at the Faculty Development Workshop in Jan, suggesting that it may be more realistic to expect faculty to excel in two of the three areas (teaching being one of the two) and that individual faculty could declare which of the other two areas (professional development or service) they plan to excel in. Sen. Rieck said that the changes the Promotions Committee has considered are quite modest as compared to the President's statement, which he thinks goes beyond what the committee can do alone. He suggested a senate meeting devoted to this topic. Senators added that faculty members would still be expected to have some level of activity in all three areas, but that they have to be exemplary in only two of the three - which is probably more realistic; there are relatively few faculty that are truly exemplary in all three areas. If enacted, this proposal may not necessarily increase service, it may even decrease it. Sen. Scott and Shannon thought that Promotions was still a good place to start this conversation, but Sen. O'Loughlin suggested that since Promotions has already discussed this and is at a dead end, it would be good for senate to discuss. Scott – is this issue important enough for a senate meeting or would we be wasting our time? Mullins – if Promotions feels it is too much for them, we should address. Curtin suggested that this could be the topic for the meeting the fourth week of March. Sen. Clarke suggested inviting the Promo Committee. Curtin- yes, as well as encourage other faculty to attend. She will see whether the President has any more info on the system used by Indiana University that she mentioned in her message.
- c. **Success Center** – was to report at the next meeting, but as that is cancelled, that will be put on the agenda for the Mar. 11 meeting.

- 7. **Other items** – Sen. Shipper is concerned about the number of **instances of violent crime** (one including his son) that have happened recently in Salisbury and that Salisbury and the surrounding area sometimes has the highest per capital crime rate in the state. We should invite the Mayor, Chief of Police, County Sheriff to come to SU and explain their plans for dealing with this. In private he has been told by officers on the beat that more of their effort is directed to partying and underage drinking than violent crime, breaking and entering, etc. SU brings about \$140 million to the community each year, but the community doesn't provide much to us in return. Sen.

Hopson mentioned that at the last Forum meeting a number of students brought that issue up and met after that meeting with the President, VP Neufeldt, etc. Jones mentioned that they have met twice since with Salisbury Police but police attitudes towards our students are not good. The administration is considering extending our jurisdiction so that SU officers will be the first responders to complaints of student partying, noise, etc, but that means that we are subsidizing the city services. He also mentioned that there are two sides to every story, including some of the students' complaints. Shipper has been told by some on the beat that things have been covered up and are not being reported in the Daily Times. Curtin suggested we start by inviting Amy Hasson and Rosemary Thomas (co-chairs of the Town/Gown council) to the March 11 meeting. Scott suggested that if more SU faculty became involved in community affairs (writing letters to the editors, attending city council meetings, running for office, etc) we could make a change.

8. Adjourned at 4:47 PM.

Motion made and passed at meeting -

A motion to approve the proposed changes to the committee membership of the University Curriculum Committee. This will be forwarded to the full faculty for a vote.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Lawler, Secretary