

Minutes of the
SU Faculty Senate Meeting
Oct. 23, 2007
HH 119

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

Senators absent - Hammond

1. Pres. Curtin called the meeting to order at 3:33; a quorum was present.
2. The minutes from Oct. 9 were accepted as written.
3. Announcement from Pres. Curtin –
 - a. No meeting on Oct. 30, next meeting is Nov. 13; Forum meets Nov. 6
 - b. Following the senate's approval to the changes in the by-laws for the UCC (to change to Undergraduate CC), Curtin made grammatical changes and the bylaws sent back to UCC; they will take up at their next meeting. Some other committees may need to make similar grammatical changes in their bylaws. Full faculty votes will be needed on the bylaws of the new Assessment and Finance Committees and to the changes in the bylaws of the Admissions and Readmissions Committee as well as UCC.
 - c. There may be a need for some additional committees soon, such as a Strategic Planning Committee and/or a Sustainability Committee (more in Provost's comments below). But perhaps standing committees could be involved in these issues instead of creating new committees.
 - d. Greig Mitchell will give an update on the budget at the next senate meeting.
 - e. Issues related to travel – a decrease in amounts available from Foundation and School budgets, at a time when costs are increasing; and there needs to be a streamlined process for applying for funds (especially hard for new faculty to know all the various places to get money). Sen. Mullins mentioned that Faculty Development is looking into the money used for stipends in the Faculty Mentor's program and whether it is really being used for its intended purpose. Ideally all faculty should have the opportunity to attend one meeting per year.
4. A word from the Administration – Tom Jones.
 - a. Budget – Haven't heard much lately, probably won't until after the Special Legislative Session has finished and decisions about revenue have been made.
 - b. Strategic Planning – The Provost will be meeting with the President tomorrow to discuss the Steering Committee makeup and overall structure for the planning process. The Enrollment Strategic Planning Committee will be a subgroup of the Strategic Planning Committee. He should know more by the next senate meeting.

- c. Mid-semester report – All faculty today received an e-mail describing this initiative. Tomorrow the faculty members specifically involved will receive a more detailed e-mail and a list of the students they need to report on. Just over 400 randomly selected freshmen are involved, but some faculty (especially in English, History or Biology 101) will have the bulk of reporting to do. The purposes of this are to help in planning the Achievement Center and ultimately increase retention. Eventually this web-based survey form will replace the early warning form and form used by Athletics. Sen. Shannon questioned whether 1) this went through the Human Subjects Committee (yes) and 2) is there assurance that this doesn't violate FERPA (need to talk with Ed Cowell about that).
 - d. Climate change and sustainability - currently a big issue in the system (politically) and each campus is supposed to develop a Campus Sustainability Committee to develop a plan for minimizing its "environmental footprint". Greig will discuss at next senate meeting. Also, there was a nationwide call for university presidents to sign a compact. The Chancellor allowed each campus to decide for itself; with recommendations from Tom & Greig, Pres. Dudley-Eshbach has signed that compact.
- 5. Bowker Book Analysis System (BBAS) - Alice Bahr - The BBAS includes a listing of 57,833 book titles that are considered (by experts) to be the "Core" of a university library. Blackwell currently contains only 17% of those titles. Bahr handed out a list of the numbers and percentages for various fields and the Departmental Library liaisons have a list of the specific titles within their fields. She would like faculty/departments to review the lists and make recommendations regarding which titles on those lists should be purchased. Bahr is not asking departments to allocate funds for these purchases; she will try to find money elsewhere. She would like this information by the end of the semester, to be able to see the big picture and know how much money will be needed for this. The liaisons will be sharing these lists with their departments soon.
 - 6. Faculty Development Day – Sen. Mullins - The theme of January's Faculty Development Day will be "Who do we think we are?" (following the fall theme of "Who are our students?"). The committee is brainstorming ideas and Ross Leasure sent an e-mail seeking faculty input. Sens. Lawler & Ludwick mentioned that the Academic Policies Committee has been discussing the range of sanctions given for cases of academic dishonesty and would like to see a discussion session on that topic. Sen. Mullins asked for senators to send him other ideas for the workshop, which will be held on Friday, Jan. 25, 2008. (Pres. Curtin added that Academic Policies is also discussing separating faculty grievances from student grievances and that Faculty Welfare may get involved with that issue).
 - 7. NCUR 22– Ron Dotterer (Chief Poo-bah of the event) – With over 3000 folks from at least 40 states (and perhaps Canada) expected on campus for April 10-12, 2008, this will be the largest event we have ever hosted. There will be over 50 concurrent sessions (in 56 disciplines) and 4 plenary speakers – Tom Horton, Tyrone Hayes, Rudy Bednar and Anne Foerst. Carolyn Collins is conference coordinator and Creston Long is program chairman. The web site is up and running (thanks to Todd Smith & his group) and can be accessed from the SU home page. Between 400-600 faculty, staff and students are needed to volunteer for various jobs (in 10 areas). Heather Holmes is volunteer coordinator and there is a link on the web page to

volunteer. The deadline for student abstracts to be submitted is Dec. 1 and faculty are needed to review these; they are pre-screened so acceptance rate should be about 80%. Our students do not need to pay the registration fee (either to present or attend sessions); but our presenters still must fill out a form. They will also have to pay for any social events or excursions they want to attend. The sessions will be in DH, HS, FH and CH, the poster session in Maggs Gym and the plenary talks in Holloway Auditorium. Shannon questioned why the spring semester had not been extended by a few days to make up for the classes lost during NCUR sessions (as had been discussed last spring). Provost Jones mentioned that the semester had to be planned way in advance, that extending the semester would mean that finals would need to be extended into the next week and so, students would be on campus another weekend and that in 98 we didn't cancel classes on the days of NCUR and instead encouraged students to attend sessions. Also, NCUR will take the place of our own student research conference this year. Sen. Robinson asked about holding NCUR during spring break; but that would severely limit the number of folks around to do the various jobs needed (like moderate sessions) and our students would not get the benefit of the experience. Tom, Ron & Creston will soon be sending out an e-mail to all faculty and staff asking them to support NCUR, to volunteer and to encourage students to attend.

8. Fall Break revisited – Pres. Curtin mentioned that this was discussed a few years ago, but was shot down then. But a number of faculty (especially new faculty) have asked about, at least, a long weekend (which is probably the best that could be done). Pros- instruction is better with a mid-semester break (students might not get so “crispy” by Thanksgiving), it would allow for longer course associated trips (as Geography now does in spring). Cons- difficult for large, multi-section courses, especially those with labs. Suggestions to try for an equal number of various days of the week in the semester, that a four-day weekend would be better than a three-day weekend, and could we exchange Labor Day for a day in Oct? (and would it be possible to have a day when classes met, but offices were not open – so staff could still have Labor Day)? Pres. Curtin suggested talking with Bob Tardiff who looked into it last time.

Sen. Mullins made a motion that the Senate officers appoint a committee (and/or ask for volunteers) to study the question.

Hand vote, motion carries (unanimous).

9. Change in all-college hour? – Sen. Shannon brought up the idea at last senate meeting and sent around a plan to change the time to Wed at 12 – 1:15 and revise the course schedule to not lose (and perhaps even gain) a module. She thinks that an earlier time might be more conducive to faculty involvement in senate and committees (as it is now late in the day) and make it easier to coordinate activities with UMES (as they have theirs at noon on Weds).

Sen. Shannon made a motion that the Senate officers forward the possible changes in the all-college hour and course modules to the Provost and Deans asking them to forward it to Department Chairs, asking them whether such a change is doable and preferable or what the cons are against such a change.

Discussion – Concern that some chairs might have to do a significant amount of work (like make up a full mock schedule) to really answer the question, that if we agree on

such a change, it would have to be supported by all four schools (all agree to use the revised schedule), need to be clear in the message to chairs that we are just seeking info on whether to proceed and that we have not already agreed on such a change. Sen. Khazeh suggested that having the all-college hour on Friday afternoon as there are very few classes scheduled then. But that would probably not increase faculty involvement in committees, etc. Sen. Shipper suggested calling it the all-university hour.

Sen. Diriker called the question. Hand vote, motion passes (9 in favor, 5 opposed).

10. Adjourned at 4:54 PM.

Motions made and passed at meeting-

1. A motion that the Senate officers appoint a committee (and/or ask for volunteers) to study the question of whether it would be possible to have a fall break.
2. A motion that the Senate officers forward the possible changes in the all-college hour and course modules to the Provost and Deans asking them to forward it to Department Chairs, asking them whether such a change is doable and preferable or what the cons are against such a change.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Lawler, Secretary