

Minutes of the
SU Faculty Senate Meeting
April 8, 2008
HH 119

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

Senators absent – Rutuelo

1. Pres. Curtin called the meeting to order at 3:31; a quorum was present.
2. The minutes from the Mar. 25 meeting were accepted as written.
3. **Old Business - Community Safety – Chief Ed Lashley** projected a number of maps which show the high rates of crime within a two mile vicinity of campus (data for 2007). The maps were from the Salisbury Police Dept. and made by Kendall Hearn a grad of the SU Geo Dept. who now works there. The maps also show that the areas around University Park and University Village have been especially hard hit. He also passed around two handouts with SU crime rate statistics. (These have been posted with the minutes on the Senate web page). The crimes that are especially high and worrisome are cases of assault, burglary, robbery, and theft. Theft, especially from buildings, is the most common crime on campus. One particularly serious situation was a high number of robberies last year involving the same perpetrators; in one case, the victim (not a student) was killed. The Salisbury Police did make arrests in these cases. The President tasked the SU Police with an initiative to improve campus safety. They have been meeting/working together with other groups (inc. SGA, Student Affairs, Greig Mitchell's office). They have had 4 meetings/discussions with students, who are very concerned and want a safer community. Some of the things the SU police are looking at are better lighting and visibility, more blue light phones; better communication to make folks aware of services already available – after-dark escort service, rape training sessions, campus community watch program. Also calling #787 on a cell phone will connect directly to Dispatch. Sen. Shipper asked if it is true that Salisbury has the second highest crime rate in the state. Lashley – it depends on the source of the data, but yes we have a high crime rate, probably ranks 3rd in the state. One factor is that we are on the drug route and a distribution center – with drugs heading north and money heading south.
4. **A Word from the Administration – Provost Jones** – The State Session ended last night at midnight; the Textbook bill died at 11:55. Hopefully by doing what we can to keep textbook costs as low as possible, we may avert a similar bill in the future. We will soon get the final word on the budget from Annapolis and the system. Then things at executive level will speed up; there will be a meeting early next week to see what we have for the remainder of the year and for FY 09. The good news is that the budget on paper is not bad; but there is a cut to the system and we don't know what our share of that is yet. The bad news – with the current economic situation, it is possible that we may have to return money to the state, perhaps as early as July 1. Also, if the slots bill does not pass, the Higher Ed Investment Fund will go away. This fund is covering budget cuts to the system; if it goes away, those cuts become real. So we will need to be cautious; don't want to spend money and then not be able to make payroll.

5. More Old Business

- a. **Revised Promotions Committee Proposal – David Rieck** - the committee tried to incorporate suggestions from the previous senate meeting, in particular added “in accordance with the applicant’s departmental expectations” to Section 3 under B. (line 15 on page 2; proposal distributed with meeting agenda). Rieck made a motion that senate approve the changes proposed by the Promotions Committee and ask the administration to incorporate them into the next edition of the faculty handbook. Seconded. Discussion – Sen. Shipper expressed concern that the phrase “particularly at the university level” precluded/minimized other service – most though not; Sen. Khazeh was concerned about make-up of Promotion committee – but this was not part of this charge; Sen. O’Loughlin concerned that requiring applicants to justify the assignment of an activity to a particular category in some cases negates the intent of “embraces a broad definition of research” ; others thought it not unreasonable; Sen. Shipper suggested that the percentages in the table should vary according to department & school – but those are set by the system and a statement in section 3 clarifies this.

Question called. Hand vote – 15 yes, 1 abstention, motion carries.

Sen. O’Loughlin is concerned that this will not solve the problem of the low participation in service and leadership on university committees and plans to bring a proposal to the senate. Sen. Khazeh asked that the proposal also address the composition of the Promotions Committee. O’Loughlin agreed.

- b. **Editorial Changes to By-laws – Sen. Rieck** made a motion that the senate accept the proposed changes (distributed with the meeting agenda) and also acknowledged Dave Parker for drafting the proposal. Seconded.

Question called. Hand vote - motion, with amendment, carries unanimously.

- c. **Motion from Membership and Elections Committee – Brent Zaprowski** - Proposal (distributed with agenda) would have members of Faculty Mediation, Faculty Hearing, Faculty Retrenchment and Retrenchment Appeals Committees elected by special elections when those committees are activated. It would also change the limitations on serving on these committees to Faculty Mediation or Faculty Hearing and Faculty Retrenchment or Retrenchment Appeals. Rationale – as these rarely meet, rather than “tie up” faculty on these committees, they can be elected as needed. Also, as it is unlikely that the two sets of committees would be called into service during the same semester, the committee wanted to allow for a person to serve on more than one of these four. Discussion – Sen. Shannon, even though these committees don’t meet often, they do important work and can be very time consuming; she would rather keep the limitation for membership on only one of these four committees, but that membership should not count as one of the two university-wide committee memberships for that individual. Shannon suggested calling these committees “special purpose committees” and amending the statement regarding university committee membership to “can only be on two standing senate committees”. Sen. Rieck suggested that it needs to be specifically stated in the By-laws that the Faculty Retrenchment committee “will be formed

when the need for retrenchment is established”. He also suggested that as mediation is supposed to be an informal and discrete process, it would make sense if the membership for that committee is appointed, with agreement of the faculty member, the administration and the senate officers, rather than elected. Pres. Curtin asked whether M&E could incorporate these suggestions and bring back a revised proposal to the next senate meeting. Zaprowski said yes. Shannon made a motion that “the By-laws have a separate section for special purpose committees”. Seconded.

Question called. Hand vote – motion carries unanimously

Sen. Shipper thought “appointed” might not be the best term regarding Rieck’s suggestion for the mediation committee. Curtin will look for a more appropriate word.

6. **Announcements from Senate Pres. Curtin** – only one more regular senate meeting – April 22. A Forum meeting next week will include discussion of safety issues. Senators should hold April 29 open in case there is a need for one more meeting, or we may need to have one on the last week of classes. Topics to discuss include sabbaticals from Welfare Committee, which should be ready by the next meeting.

7. **Discussion of a Communication Across the Curriculum Proposal – Jody Morrison and Scott Britten** – Oral competence is cited as an important part of our curriculum, with Gen Ed outcomes and specific outcomes in many programs, but the Middle States Evaluation team noted that we have not documented how our students develop the skills needed for this. In response to this need, Communication Arts faculty are proposing a program, in some ways similar to Writing Across the Curriculum, which would include resources for faculty in developing and assessing assignments, a web presence, workshops for faculty and also a means to support students in developing their oral skills. They would like to have a place for student workshops and where students could have presentations taped and then view them together with a faculty member for feedback. Discussion – A number of senators liked the idea, but had some concerns about staffing (planned to be Com Arts faculty), money, space and also wondered how this would relate to the Writing Center (which has less room than in the past), to WAC and to the Success Center. Some thought it is important for this to be independent and faculty driven; others thought that that could still be the case, even if space and administrative support were provided by the Success center and this would be a good way to demonstrate that the Success Center is not just about remedial work. Also, being associated with the Success Center might make it easier for students to find out about the services available. Rieck suggested that it would make sense to start with the faculty support (similar to WAC) as the resources for student workshops, sessions, etc, would be substantial. Concern about a requirement for a statement on all syllabi – no suggestion for that. Sen. Khazeh asked how we would assess the success of such a program and also suggested a “Personal Finance across the Curriculum” program. Sen. Mullins said that the Com Arts faculty fully support this proposal and will be involved in the staffing. Senators asked if they had spoken with Faculty Development (not yet) or Student Affairs (yes). Sen. Shipper expressed concern about one more collateral organization; also suggested the idea of a

student chapter of Toastmasters. Pres. Curtin asked where we go from here? Some wanted to see something in writing, which includes how it would relate to WAC and the Success center. They will send something out to the senators before the next meeting.

8. **Other business – Sen. Diriker** – recognized three SU faculty who are among this year's recipients of the BOR awards – Mike Scott (Geography & Geo Sciences), Jinchul Kim (Art) and Bob Dombrowski (Accounting and Legal Studies).
9. Adjourned at 5:01 PM.

Motions made and passed at meeting -

1. A motion that the senate approve the changes proposed by the Promotions Committee regarding the criteria for promotion and ask the administration to incorporate these changes into the next edition of the faculty handbook.
2. A motion that the senate accept the proposed changes regarding editorial changes in By-laws with regard to ex officio committee members when there are changes of title, restructuring, etc, of administrative positions.
3. A motion that the By-laws have a separate section for special purpose committees.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Lawler, Secretary