

Faculty Senate Minutes

December 9 1997

Senators Present: Z. Bello L. Bush E. Crane D. Defino J. DeRidder N. Drewer G. Ference (Vice President) J. Kalb (Secretary) K. Fox M. Garner J. Jenne C. Long S. Muller D. Parker (President) K. Shannon C. Thomas D. Whaley.

A quorum being present the meeting was called to order by Senate President Parker at 3 p.m.

1. Announcements from President Parker:

- A. Salary information is now complete and accurate (within reason) and available on reserve in the library.
- B. Parker Kathleen Shannon and Phil Creighton met recently to discuss the Senate's previous decisions on the Academic Policies recommendations. More on that later in the meeting.
- C. Next week's meeting will be an informal session with the President for the open exchange of ideas and viewpoints and casual discussion of issues. Parker encourages Senators to attend and to find proctors for their exams if necessary so they may avail themselves of this opportunity.

2. Additional announcements from Senators:

- A. Academic Policies Committee: Kathleen Shannon informed the Senate that when she and Parker met with the Provost he offered a "friendly amendment" to the policy change approved at the September 23 1997 Senate meeting. The Committee had recommended and the Senate approved changing the policy to 30 of the last 40 hours must be taken at SSU ; the Provost prefers "30 of the last 37 hours must be taken at SSU."
- The Committee had recommended and the Senate approved allowing IP (in progress) grades to be extended to some undergraduate courses such as internships and research courses which do not conform to semester calendars. The Provost expressed concern about students who need to complete satisfactorily a certain number of hours in order to meet eligibility requirements for scholarships or participation in athletics or other activities. The Provost suggested that a suitably

worded warning be appended to the information in the catalogue concerning deferred grades and their potential impact on students' ability to meet such eligibility requirements. The Academic Policies Committee will discuss the amendment and the Provost's recommendations at its next meeting.

- B. Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee: Don Whaley in a follow up to his announcement at the last Senate meeting that the AFTC was reviewing its charge that Doug Marshall on behalf of the AFTC had communicated with Jim Lackie that "the Committee believes that all grievances and appeals related to academic freedom and tenure should be heard by the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee. This would include appeals involving discrimination which are currently heard by another committee. We believe the new procedures should take this into account." This has been the Committee's position for several years.

3. Announcements from Provost Creighton:

- A. There has been tremendous response to the partnership program developed with the two Prince Georges County high schools.
- B. The Provost invited the Senate to work with him on two important matters next semester: 1) faculty workload issues and 2) developing standards which broaden the conception of research for promotion. These two areas may very well be joined as would be fleshing out the ways in which candidates provide evidence and evaluative measures for their teaching service and research.
- The Provost recommended that Senators participate in the Faculty and Staff Development Day on January 23 1998 when Dr. Charles Glassick will discuss both Dr. Ernest Boyer's Scholarship Reconsidered and Dr. Glassick's Scholarship Assessed.
- C. The Provost also reminded Senators to vote on the Strategic Plan ASAP.

4. The minutes of the November 11 1997 meeting were approved.

5. Old Business

- A. The Promotions Process: Rich McKenzie Chair of the University Promotions Committee (UPC) distributed the recently completed draft of University Promotions Committee's Promotions Process Review which provides pro and con arguments for the four models--1) the current process with improvements 2) individual school promotions committees with a University Promotions Committee 3) individual school promotions committees with the UPC functioning only in an appeals and/or policy mode or abolished entirely and 4) a mixed model in which individual schools may elect or not elect to have school promotions committees. McKenzie made a brief presentation fielded various questions and asked the Senate to inform him of the ways in which it wanted the UPC to proceed and what role the Senate wished to take now in obtaining more faculty input and in deliberating further.

The Senate decided to dedicate its second meeting of the Spring semester to the discussion of the document provided by the

UPC and other matters pertinent to the promotions process perhaps schedule a subsequent faculty meeting for additional discussion and would make the document available to all the faculty through e-mail and through links to the Senate webpage.

- B. Distance Education Policy. Kathy Fox informed the Senate that she Michael O'Loughlin and Bill Zak recently met with Dr. Creighton concerning the Position Statement and Policy Recommendations on Distance Education and the Provost indicated that the President's approval of this policy hinged on one brief paragraph which could be easily amended. If these three and the Senate would agree to replace the statement under "OTHER CONSIDERATIONS" on page 3 of the Task Force on Distance Education's Policy Recommendations document which reads "The individual department in consultation with the dean is responsible for setting upper and lower limits on distance education course enrollment in total and at each site. However total enrollment should not exceed traditional on-campus class limits" with the text "Class size for distance education courses at each prospective site should be established through consultation with the department and administration. The acceptable student-teacher ratio of the traditional on-campus class should be maintained the President is likely to endorse these recommendations.

Fox O'Loughlin and Zak agreed. The Senate approved the change in the document.

6. New Business

A. John Kalb who serves as Designated Senator on the Committee on Promotions proposed an amendment to the current description of the role of the Designated Senator as stated in the Bylaws which would maintain the valuable role of the Senator in discussion of policy and procedural issues but would remove this appointed additional member from the evaluation process of the candidates themselves. He asked that the Senate consider adding the sentence: "The Designated Senator who serves on this Committee will only

participate in Committee meetings as a voting member when the meetings address policy and procedural issues but will not participate in the evaluation and review of individual candidates for promotion."

The Senate recommended the Bylaws change which will be the subject of Faculty voting early in the Spring Semester.

7. Meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Submitted by John Kalb Senate secretary

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