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Salisbury State University

Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Minutes

September 2 1997

Present: 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 first fall meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order by Senate President Parker at 3:34 p.m.

1. Senate President Parker welcomed the senators and visitors indicated that our next meeting would be in three weeks (on September 23) following next Tuesday's Convocation and the subsequent Tuesday's Forum meeting and made the following announcements concerning administrative initiatives this summer:
 - A. Provost Phil Creighton's General Education Task Force/Initiative. Senate was not informed concerning its formation or purpose but has been asked to provide Senate nominees.
 - B. President Merwin has "decided to postpone action on" the recommendations provided by the Distance Education Task Force (in a memo to Dr. Doug Marshall Chair of the SSU Forum) but has not informed the Senate of his decision. (Kathleen Shannon provided copies of Dr. Merwin's memo and Michael O'Loughlin's three page response on behalf of and as chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Distance Education).
 - C. In keeping with the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Task Force recommendations Maggs Gym is now open more frequently for general

usage than ever before. This accounts for the elimination of "Faculty Only" and "Faculty/Staff" hours in some of the facilities.

- D. The decision concerning the new Center for Teaching Excellence has come from above (i.e. the Presidential administration) with no consultation of the Faculty Senate.
 - E. The New Criteria for undergraduate education--the four requirements for every graduate in the next century--which Provost Creighton enumerated at this session on August 28 1997 seem to have similarly come from the administration without consultation of faculty.
 - F. The Faculty Salary Chart which the Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Compensation worked on so arduously a few years ago has been changed (devalued) by the Provost to reflect 1.25% merit as the boundary and decreasing promotion adjustments. This coupled with last years' misapplication of promotion adjustments puts salaries "out of whack" once again.
 - G. A number of courses have been increased in student population beyond the agreed upon 10 and often beyond the numbers of desks available in the classroom and/or what the fire marshall will allow due to what Avery Salisbury informs Parker are over zealous admissions counselors.
 - H. The current campus-wide computer problems are a direct result of the "port for every pillow" wiring snafus.
2. Approval of Minutes. Due to the campus computer problems neither the agenda for today's Senate meeting nor the minutes of the organizational meeting of the Senate were able to be distributed on GroupWise. President hopes that we will be able to approve the minutes for that first and this meeting at the next Senate meeting (September 23 1997)
 3. Roll-call of the Senate Committees: The President asked Senators who have been assigned to specific Senate committees to make sure a meeting of each committee is called before our next Senate meeting.
 4. Election of Senate Vice President. Since Zalko Bello elected Vice President at the organizational meeting in May has withdrawn from that role the Senate chose Greg Ference as Vice President. The new V.P. was then informed of all the committee vacancies which needed to be filled due to sabbaticals and leaves.
 5. Old Business
 6. Academic Policies Committee. Kathleen Shannon of the Academic Policies Committee reminded the Senate of the recommendations made by Academic Policies at the final Forum meeting last semester. These recommendations were tabled by the Forum and now come under the pervue of the Senate. These recommendations consist of 1) changing current undergraduate policy which requires that the last 30 hours of undergraduate education must be taken at SSU to the policy that "30 of the last 40 hours must be taken at SSU which more accurately reflects current policy as it is applied; and 2) extending IP grades--presently available for graduate courses to indicate in progress"--to some undergraduate courses--internships research courses and the like--which

similarly do not come to a conclusion coincidental to the conclusion of an academic semester.

These two policy changes will be brought from the table for a vote at the next Senate meeting.

7. Belated Announcement. President Parker informed the senators of a letter he had received from the SGA President concerning student positions on select faculty committees and provided copies of the letters to the designated senators of those committees for their consideration.
8. New Business.
9. A. Much discussion ensued concerning the registrar and his unnamed admissions counselors over enrolling courses beyond the 10% and beyond the limits of safety and security. Many spoke of this as an alleged freshman problem but were advised that these were upper level courses in which much of the overage occurred. Others were frustrated by the fact that this problem was attributed to anonymous "counselors who are somehow free to overstep their authority. Some of this discussion also drifted into the current computer problems and the matter of SSU's failure to efficiently offer computer capability as oft-promised in the past, actually hindering those faculty who are trying to use computer technology as part of the classroom but face outages and failures when they do. On both issues, the Senate decided to take some action:
 10. The officers of the Senate will draft and submit a letter to Provost Creighton asking him to identify the source of the problem, indicate that those in error be advised that such errors are unacceptable, assure the Faculty that such unconscionable violations will not occur again, and, if he would, meet with the Senate in response to our questions and noted problems.
 11. The officers of the Senate will draft and submit a letter to Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs, Jerry Waldron, voicing the faculty's concern about existing sub-standard performance of the campus computer system (some faculty are on, some are off; sometimes the system works, sometimes it doesn't), particularly in light of the emphasis given to faculty's use of technology as part of courses, and inviting VP Waldron to an upcoming Senate meeting at which he could apprise the faculty of efforts to rectify the situation and outline future plans for computer services for faculty and students.
12. B. Asked to nominate members of the Faculty to fill two appointments of the Provost's General Education Task Force, the Senate voted to send forth the names of Kathleen Shannon and Sarah Sharbach.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Submitted by John Kalb, Senate secretary
Approved 9-23-97