

Draft Minutes of the
SU Faculty Senate Meeting
May 9, 2006
HH119

Senators Present: DeRidder, Groth, Hopson, Howard, Lawler, McKenzie, Morrison, Muller, Mullins, O'Loughlin, Parker, Pereboom, Ritenour, Robeck, Shannon, Shipper.

Senators Absent: Diriker, Robinson

1. Maarten Pereboom called the senate to order at 3:30pm.
2. The minutes from April 11th were approved as changed. The minutes from April 25th were approved.
3. Announcements

Senate President - To be an election judge as part of the "Professor's at the Polls" program, call 410-548-4830. See the PACE website for additional information. Please remember that we will have a Senate meeting next week (May 16th) and that elections are ongoing. At next week's Senate meeting we will welcome new Senators and hold elections.

President Dudley-Eshbach - Offered thanks for our leadership, consideration and discussion surrounding the curricular proposal. That over 300 faculty came out to vote is extraordinary and is a real sign of the fact that faculty care about the community and the big issues that face us. She was very encouraged by the turnout and said that it was probably a good thing that the vote went as it did, as close as it was, that had it passed it could have been problematic since it would have had to work for nearly everyone. Now is an opportunity to take a step back and say what a great academic community this is, and perhaps we can again engage at that tight level and debate and sustain that interest as we talk about other important issues. For example, the balance of scholarship and creative activity is a discussion that we need to have in a meaningful way. It is the nature of the academy that we will debate and disagree and still come together with a sense of unity and community. "I'm really proud of this university and I couldn't have been more proud when it heard about the turnout of the vote. I'm humbled and proud to be president of this University."

Provost Buchanan

- For spring commencement we will try to have receptions at the Civic Center. A tent will be constructed so that we can have space inside and outside the building.
- This spring the Board of Regents and MHEC approved two new Master's programs: A M.A. in Conflict Resolution and a M.S. in Geographic Information Systems and Public Administration.

-A proposal has been made to begin offering the B.A. & M.A. in Social Work at the Higher Education Center for the Eastern Shore at Chesapeake Community College and Cecil Community College. The programs will utilize a combination of video conferencing, online activities and face-to-face instruction. This will be a way to build enrollment without impacting facilities.

-Budget update: Tomorrow morning the Board of Regents, in a special meeting, will set the undergraduate tuition rate to be the same this coming year as last year. However, our costs are rising, especially in energy and construction. Just because we have the highest appropriation we've ever seen doesn't mean our budget issues are totally resolved.

- We will meet our enrollment growth targets for the coming year - we have the option to control growth by stopping transfer registrations early again this year (like we did last year).

-Departments which have been recruiting new faculty members have had much success. Welcome fellowships are available for outstanding minority faculty. We've been fortunate to have one, if not two, fellows among the incoming faculty. Nominations are submitted next week (we have 7 new minority faculty for the fall).

-The Provost will work with a variety groups, hopefully over summer, to continue discussions of student assessment.

4. Committee Reports

NCUR 2008 - Ron Dotterer – SU was selected to sponsor the event again on April 10-12. The event will need 300-500 volunteers. Creston Long has agreed to chair the planning committee and Carolyn Collins will be the conference coordinator. The SURC committee will be asked to serve as the bulk of the members of the steering committee. For faculty who do not want to redirect students to the conference instead of holding traditional classes on those days, the committee will be happy to accommodate those requests. However, Dotterer asked the Senate to consider passing a resolution for faculty to reassign classes on those days and encourage students to attend NCUR.

Senators discussed extending the academic calendar by two days so as not to lose the class time if we required students to attend the conference, the need to build in a day for our own SURC (like a Wednesday), and whether or not we'll hold SURC in 2008.

Shannon made the following motion: The faculty senate would like to support NCUR 2008 and would like the administration to investigate the possibility of building it into the academic calendar so that classes are not scheduled on April 10 and 11th.

14 yes, 1 abstention, motion carries

Foundations of Excellence – Melanie Perreault – This is a national program/initiative to investigate first year programs at universities and to discover the best practices to help students transition from high school to college. Since September,

a committee on campus has been meeting to examine SU's policies. Some members of the committee also went to a conference in Atlanta to learn more about these issues. They started their research at SU by developing & distributing a student and faculty survey. Overall, the results indicate that the first year is generally a positive experience. However, some weaknesses were identified - advising, communication about academic expectations, lack of communication between academic and student life, among others. In addition, a self report revealed that students study a meager 5-6 hours per week, yet our first year students are not failing. We need to ratchet up our academic expectations – this is a shameful result that we need to take seriously.

The committee will convene in a 2-day retreat in June and make a final report with some recommendations for us to consider. Some minor changes have already made: a written a statement of philosophy, one day was added to Fall orientation to focus on the academic transition, and departments will be encouraged to hold open houses on that day so that students can meet their advisor and the faculty.

A preliminary report will be presented this Thursday at 3:30 at the fireside lounge in the GUC.

The Provost commented that there were some differences in his understanding of the committee's plans and what was presented.

For the record, Faculty Development Day is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August, 23, student orientation on Thursday 24th, the Provost and Dean's meetings on the afternoon of Thursday 24th for faculty, academic orientation/open houses for students on Friday 25th.

5. Old Business

Curriculum Change vote – Pereboom asked if Senators had any comments regarding the recent faculty vote.

Discussion included the need for us not lose momentum, to continue to discuss some of the critical issues that arose, to engage academic policies & the UCC to be involved, to look at the comprehensive universities in Maryland to see if we're out of step with national standards, and to acknowledge the hard work of the curriculum change committee.

Rich McKenzie made the following motion: The Faculty Senate accepts the report of the curriculum change committee and we thank them for their efforts.

15 in favor, the motion passes

6. New Business-

Conflict of Interest policy/form - Robert Tardiff – reviewed the purpose of each of these policies (that had been distributed to faculty prior to the meeting). The "commitment" piece is designed to encourage faculty do things for the community but in a way that is not at the expense of the university. The conflict of interest policy

is an attempt to help faculty appropriately engage the economic base of Maryland. He then distributed a draft policy "background" handout so we could see where the procedures came from.

A suggestion was made to send the policies to the academic freedom & tenure committee to review and report back. There was generally agreement for this suggestion. Another suggestion was made to separate the documents since they deal with different issues.

The Provost indicated that faculty members are welcome to suggest changes to the documents. However, they tried to err on the side of supporting innovative activities of faculty, and thus created the documents with enough flexibility to leave room for department chairs to make decisions appropriate for their faculty.

Graduate curriculum, the UCC and the Graduate Council - Donna Ritenour
The UCC recently discussed a conflict they would like the Senate to help clarify and/or resolve. Although the Graduate Council approves graduate classes, the UCC bylaws indicate that they should be looking at graduate classes (i.e., curriculum changes), and they are not (and have not been for some time). It appears that the bylaws of each group are in conflict.

Issues discussed included: the role of the UCC and graduate classes, the need to bring the Graduate Council into the Senate governance structure (perhaps have the Graduate Council as a sub-committee of the UCC), and Senator recollections of the history of this issue.

A motion was made for the Faculty Senate to direct the UCC to follow the letter and spirit of their bylaws as it concerns graduate courses.

4 in favor, 7 opposed, 3 abstentions, the motion failed

Overall, Senators agreed that the current process isn't clear and we need to help clarify it.

Faculty Welfare Committee - Kathleen Shannon - Indicated that the committee is overwhelmed. Suggested that Academic Freedom and Tenure could handle all the appeals, in part, to help lighten the load. Due to the time and the need to have a more complete discussion, it was decided to continue this and attempt to resolve the problem in the first couple Senate meetings next semester (in time for the rush of problems that FWC usually deals with in March).

7. Pereboom adjourned the meeting at 5:10.

Respectfully submitted by Jody Morrison, Secretary