

Draft Minutes of the
SU Faculty Senate Meeting
Sept. 12, 2006
HH 119

Senators Present : Curtin, DeRidder, Egan, Groth, Hammond, Hopson, Howard, Khazeh, Lawler, Morrison, Mullins, Parker, Ritenour, Robinson, Scott, Shannon, Shipper

Senator Absent: Rieck

1. Pres. Mullins called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. A quorum was present.
2. Kathleen Shannon indicated a correction for the May 9 minutes. The second sentence of the section on the Faculty Welfare Committee should read “Suggested that Academic Freedom and Tenure could handle all appeals related to appointment, rank and tenure , in part, to help lighten the load”. The minutes were approved as corrected.

The minutes from the May 16 meeting were approved with the removal of item #2, “The minutes from May 9th were approved”.

3. Announcements from Pres. Mullins
 - Reminder to senators to meet with their respective committees, elect a chair and send that name to him asap (only 2 senators have done this so far).
 - He has brought to the attention of Gerry Wood concerns regarding the timing of the bookstore inventory closing this summer. The bookstore was closed at the start of summer session 2 which delayed the purchase of books for some students. Closure during transfer registration would also be problematic.
 - The issue of long delays in paying faculty for summer and winter sessions has been brought to the attention of the provost and he is trying to get them paid in a more timely fashion in the future.
 - With regard to a complaint from the chair of the Faculty Welfare Committee regarding procedural problems in a case last spring, the senate officers (without Mullins) are meeting with those involved. All involved would like to see resolution without bringing the issue before the full senate.
 - Regarding the language of “department” versus “discipline” in the General Education categories, the UCC decided to keep current “department” designation, but sent the issue back to the Fulton chairs and FCC as that is the school most involved. They will forward their recommendation back to UCC.

- Over the summer a committee of Fulton School faculty developed a proposal for curricular reform in that school which they think would not negatively impact other schools. If you have not seen this, Mullins can get you a copy.
- Mullins charged the Ad hoc Finance committee to develop a proposal to have the committee made a standing committee of the senate.

4. A Word from the Administration – Provost Jones

- He wants to work closely with the senate, wants a collaborative, community effort. Hopes senators will stay informed, discuss issues with their constituents and encourage them to get involved. He wants Deans to be facilitators between groups and plans on calling Deans and Chairs together again.
- May also call a meeting of Full professors, as Nelson Butler did years ago, to get their perspectives.
- Sees some trying times during the coming years, trying to balance where we want to be in light of external issues - particularly maintaining our quality and character during a period of growth.
- Growth situation – the USM has compressed the 5 year growth plan into 4 years, resulting in a larger projected increase for next year – 400 more students, rather than 300 more. Although there has been some variation in specifics mentioned in individual discussions (he hopes to have a clearer picture soon), there is no doubt that one way or another we will see increased enrollments in the coming years.
- The administration is working to see that we get full financial support for these increases and not just in terms of new faculty lines, but also administrative support staff, increased travel budgets, faculty offices and other facilities, etc.

5. Old Business

a. Grad Council and UCC – Grad Council has a curricular review process that is separate from the UCC and even from the Senate which, according to the By-laws, has ultimate responsibility for the curriculum. However, the graduate faculty is different from the undergraduate faculty and the Grad Council does have a senate liaison (although one was not appointed last year).

Shannon made the following motion: The Graduate Council and UCC are directed to meet and discuss the exact mechanism used for graduate curricular changes and report back to the senate with any recommendations by the Nov. 28th meeting.

16 yes, motion carries

b. Faculty Welfare Committee workload issue – The main reason that the committee requested certain appeals go to the Academic Freedom & Tenure

committee was that currently the same grievance could go to two different committees (FWC and AFTC) and have two different outcomes. Ann Donohue concurs with this and indicated that all grievances relative to the ART document should go to a single committee. Solving this issue by sending grievances related to appointment, rank and tenure to AFTC would also (secondarily) help decrease the workload of the FWC which is very high. However, the AFTC declined this proposal. Should we revisit this issue, direct AFTC to accept these cases or rewrite the By-laws? The senate reps on these committees (Shannon on AFTC and Kashi Khazeh on FWC) will meet with their respective committees and discuss this and it will be on the agenda for the next senate meeting.

6. New Business

a. Revised Guidelines for APR – Bob Tardiff – Two changes have been made to the document since we endorsed it last year. 1) Under Accredited Programs (pg 4) the specific accrediting agencies whose standards may replace the SU guidelines are now identified. 2) Under Program curriculum, the last two bullets have been added in response to suggestions from the Middle State Review.

Elizabeth Curtin made a motion to endorse the revised APR Guidelines.

13 yes, 3 abstentions, motion carries

b. General Education Assessment – Provost Jones – A pilot program to assess general education goals in a few courses that have common final exams has been initiated with Joaquin Vila working as Special Assistant for Assessment. (English, History, Math and perhaps Biology courses are involved). A few questions assessing Learning Goals 1 & 2 will be added to final exams in these courses. In addition to the finals being graded by the course instructor, these questions will also be graded by faculty on the assessment team who will receive a stipend for their work. Ideally, these questions will be incorporated in to the finals for the current semester, and the assessment team will be in place by spring. At this point it is still unclear whether all Gen Ed courses will eventually be involved, what to do about transfer students, whether our benchmarks are relative to those of our aspirational peers or based on our own criteria. In response to a question of what we will do if we do not meet our benchmarks, Jones indicated that the faculty will decide what it will take to get us to that level. Ideally the assessment will show a mix of strengths and weaknesses and not total success or total failure with regard to these goals. A national movement towards standardized tests for Gen Ed assessment was mentioned, but if we can get ahead of the game with our own assessment tools it may help us avoid having such tests forced upon us. Dr. Jones left after this discussion.

c. Administrative Searches – President Dudley-Eshbach would like input from the senate regarding the searches for the Provost and Director of the Center for International Education with regard to how soon these searches should begin and whether they should be internal or external searches. Both of these positions are currently filled by interims. Most of the discussion centered on the provost search; concerns expressed included: isn't there a legal or system-wide requirement for an external search, is it too late to start a search for next year, perhaps we don't need to be hemmed in by the academic calendar as with faculty searches, does an interim provost have less influence than a permanent one, will we have a clearer perspective by waiting to start the search next fall? It was suggested that we send a written recommendation to Pres. Dudley-Eshbach by the end of Oct. Discussion will continue at the next senate meeting.

7. Mullins adjourned the meeting at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Lawler, Secretary