

Minutes of the
SU Faculty Senate Meeting
Feb. 13, 2007
HH 119

Senators present : Curtin, DeRidder, Groth, Hammond, Hopson, Khazeh, Lawler, Morrison, Mullins, Parker, Rieck, Ritenour, Robinson, Scott, Shannon, Shipper, Talbert

Senators absent: Egan

1. Pres. Mullins called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM. A quorum was present.
2. Minutes – Kashi Khazeh proposed a couple changes to the Nov. 28 minutes, that “Interim” be added to Provost Jones and a reference to Frank Shipper be added to clarify which motion passed. On the Dec. 5 minutes, Tom Jones indicated that Greig Mitchell’s first name had been misspelled. The minutes for Nov. 28 & Dec. 5 were approved as amended.
3. Announcements from Pres. Mullins
 - Pres. Mullins welcomed Bart Talbert, the sabbatical replacement Senator-at-Large Joe Howard.
 - The Executive Committee of the Forum is in the process of discussing changes to the Forum structure and meeting schedule. They are thinking of having only three meetings per year to share information between the various constituent groups and discuss issues that need general input.
 - Ellen Neufeldt mentioned that some of the provost candidate visits overlap with Senate meeting times, so Mullins may need to reschedule some of our upcoming meetings.
4. From the Administration – Interim Provost Jones
 - Enrollment Issues - The increased enrollment projection for fall is currently 150 students, but that may change if there are further budget cuts. The ballpark estimate for new students in fall 07 is 1100 – 1200 freshmen and about 900 transfers. Our enrollment for this year is good, we met and exceeded the goal of 320 additional students. And recruitment efforts for next year are on track. The Social Work degree is being offered at Cecil Community College and Chesapeake College and will be offered at Hagerstown soon. Students enrolled in these programs count towards our total enrollment numbers.
 - Bob Tardiff is the focal person for the on-line calendars. He has been working to get them organized and in a useable form. One calendar is an active working master calendar; it actively adds new items to all calendars. They are already on line, but not totally complete. One is similar in content to the old hard-copy, academic calendar.

From President Janet Dudley- Eshbach – Although our operating budget is not looking good at this point, all our capital projects have been protected and are still on line – including funds for the TETC, new Purdue building, a parking garage and new turf and lights for the athletic fields. The parking garage will be located on the east side of Rt. 13 behind Hardies and will provide 700 spaces.

5. New Business –

a). UCC Procedure for Reviewing Proposed Curriculum Reform in the Fulton School - David Rieck. Sandra Coehea-Weible presented a synopsis of the last three UCC meetings and the senators had received excerpts relating to the Fulton proposal from the minutes of those meetings. Reps from the Fulton school presented the proposal at the 11/16 UCC meeting and because there were no set procedures for approving such a change, UCC began to discuss the process. Since there are so many courses involved, Fulton asked for an expedited approval process. They requested that if UCC approved a list of 10 enhancements, that the courses could be submitted in a spreadsheet format. UCC agreed that they needed to vote on the enhancements and that it was the responsibility of the Fulton Committee to present the proposal to the faculty at large and then the UCC members should get input from their constituents. At the Dec. meeting, Fulton reps suggested that 4 starter programs (Philosophy, Spanish, Art and Political Science) be approved to for implementation in fall 2007. At Jan. 18 meeting, The UCC voted on 3 items, they approved the “enhancement menu”, approved use of the grid, but did not approve of the Honors program using the same format as the Fulton school. At Feb. 8 meeting, UCC decided to vote on the Gen Ed component at their Mar. 8 meeting.

Pres. Mullins reminded senators that the primary concern was with procedure and discussion should center on that. Questions & concern expressed included the following (responses in *italics*): Since UCC makes recommendations to the Provost why are we even discussing this? *Because they are making procedural changes.* Will there be changes to the catalog descriptions? *Only the last sentence will change to “Three hours per weeks plus enhancement”.* Do revised course syllabi have to be submitted? *No, and only some school committees require syllabi,* but it is on the UCC checklist. Concern that current process to course changes is so onerous that it prohibits faculty from making changes. Concern about the use of the enhancement menu. *Fulton had developed a matrix of specific courses and specific enhancements, but UCC chose to accept the “menu”.* Have we accepted any changes to Gen Ed? No, UCC will vote on that on March 8. Concern that the reason that UCC is changing their procedure is based only on the huge amount of work involved if it was done in the usual manner. How will outcomes be measured? *Need to ask Fulton.* At some point, have to trust that there will be accountability at the level of chairs and deans. Question whether the proposed changes meet the COMAR regs. *There are ways to increase course credits without increasing seat time and UCC accepted Fulton’s assurance that they are meeting those regs.* Would still like to see in writing that COMAR regs are being met. Is this proposal in response to Middle

States? *No.* Concern that course credits will be increased by 1/3 and the only change on the description will be the word, “enhanced”, need to see revised syllabi. Although we trust that faculty and chairs will do the right thing, we, the faculty as a group, are responsible for the curriculum. Another point of view, the ultimate responsibility for the integrity of a course is with the faculty teaching it. UCC members need to check that departments and programs will not be negatively impacted by these changes. *UCC had a lengthy discussion and voted unanimously to accept the rationale from Fulton.* Interim Provost Jones mentioned that the proposal has staffing implications and so will be considered by the administration in light of budgetary constraints. But he sees this as the first step in curricular reform and expects that other schools will follow.

Senator Shannon made a motion that “we endorse the UCC’s process for dealing with the Fulton Curricular Reform Proposal and request that they also look at ways to streamline the course change process for all”. More discussion, including asking what it would mean if the motion fails as the UCC will still report to the Provost. *But the senate can override a committee decision. Senate doesn’t entertain all UCC decisions, but we can go against some and Provost tends to listen to the senate.* Suggestion that anyone concerned with process can attend a UCC meeting. Pres. Mullins reminded that we are addressing a senate committee and the procedure it followed. Sandra Coehea-Weible mentioned that the proposals for 4 programs will be voted on by UCC on Feb. 22 and March 8 and, if passed will go forward to the Provost. They will need to be approved by spring break in order to get into the new catalog.

Shannon’s motion was seconded. More discussion. We have a process that is working, a large amount of work isn’t a good reason to change. *Fulton CC has looked closely at each proposal.* Shipper proposed a friendly amendment, that the enhancements must meet with COMAR regs. *Shannon did not accept saying that is the Provost’s job.* If we vote against this does that mean the UCC’s work is void? *No.* Suggestion was made by Sen. Khazeh to withdraw motion, let UCC do their job and forward to Provost. Any school or individual with a problem can bring it to the senate. *Pres. Mullins – reason this is on the floor is concern whether UCC can change process.* Concern that this is a very different process, that change should have been spelled out earlier and available to all. Dr. Shannon withdrew her motion. Dr. Mullins will direct UCC to examine all procedures and see if process can be streamlined. We are where we started – UCC will send its recommendation regarding the Gen Ed portion of the proposal to senate.

b). Motion on Common Final Exam Schedule – Elizabeth Curtin presented motion that “Students scheduled for a common exam (e.g. English, History, Psych, Math, Chem) as one of three exams on a single day should be required to take the common exam whenever in the day it is scheduled as opposed to the current policy allowing students to reschedule the “middle” exam”. Curtin mentioned that this has rarely been a problem; usually the instructor of one of the

other courses is willing to reschedule. Motion was seconded. Curtin agreed to work with Cohea-Weible on the final language so that it is clear to students and faculty regarding which course needs to reschedule.

Voice vote, motion carries.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Lawler, Secretary