

Minutes of the
SU Faculty Senate Meeting
March 27, 2007
CH Auditorium

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

Senators absent – none

1. Pres. Mullins called the meeting to order at 3:34; a quorum was present.
2. In order to devote the entire meeting to a discussion of the Fulton Curriculum Proposal, Mullins dispensed with other regular agenda items.
3. New Business
 - a. Discussion of Fulton Curriculum Reform Proposal: Mullins reminded the members and audience that the UCC recommended that the Senate accept the Fulton Proposal (the March 7, 2007 version) and UCC had decided to send the proposal forward in its entirety. He suggested that the discussion shouldn't include specifics on the 4 starter programs, but was otherwise open to any other aspect of the proposal. Sen. Ritenour, senate rep on UCC, suggested the discussion should concentrate on Appendix B, the changes in Gen Ed and how those changes would affect various programs.

Sen. Shannon made a motion that the senate approve the Fulton proposal. She stated that the committee had met with many groups around campus and made a concerted effort to address various concerns and make the change work for all students. Although there are concerns, what is most important is the outcome for all our students. Sen. Hopson seconded the motion.

Discussion followed, including the following concerns (*responses in italics*). Concern about changes from the normal curricular review process, *but senate discussion of that at Feb. 13 meeting did not result in any recommendations for UCC to change the process they agreed on. And UCC did eventually decide to collect syllabi from courses to be enhanced (they are in process of collecting these)*. Concern that this has come after the university-wide proposal was voted down last year. *This is only for Fulton, they haven't blocked other schools from making changes or not; they want to enhance their courses in this way.* Concern about cost (UCC does take that into consideration). *Fulton committee that met in summer considered 2 models and went forward with the less expensive.* Concern that there is no evidence that the change to 4 credit courses enhances student learning. (Sen, Shipper passed out results of a study from GW). *There is no way to ever prove before hand that such a change will be better.* The wording of Appendix b. (Gen Ed portion) is not clear. *After UCC approval it will get further review for wording for the catalog copy.* Are the changes to Gen Ed in response to Middle States? *No.* Concern that chairs have not signed-off on the proposal, especially the statement at the bottom of page 5. *Although they had not specifically signed off, chairs from different schools seemed satisfied at meetings.* Does the Gen Ed portion relate to the on-going assessment of Gen Ed.? *Interim Provost Jones replied that the Gen Ed changes will not go into effect until Fall 08, the*

assessment study will continue this year and next. And the results of the study will still be relevant to the enhanced version of the courses. Would have liked to have seen such changes first enacted in upper level course and, if successful, then have lower level and Gen Ed courses changed. This would have been difficult as in some departments (ex. English with Lit courses) some upper level courses can count towards Gen. Ed. The Gen Ed changes do not take into consideration the recommendations from the Gen Ed task force of 2000. The changes to Gen Ed in this proposal are not meant to be a major reform of Gen Ed but changes to accommodate the Fulton proposal and should be considered as transitional. We will eventually need a holistic approach to Gen Ed reform.

In response to the last comments, Khazeh asked Shannon to modify her motion. Accordingly, Shannon made a friendly amendment to her own motion to read, a motion that “the Senate approve the Fulton Proposal as a first step in the curriculum reform process”. Seconded by Hopson.

Sen. Egan made a motion to call the question. Seconded. Voice vote, motion carries.

Vote on Sen. Shannon’s motion. 10 yes, 5 no, 2 abstentions. Motion carries.

b. Mullins recommended senators consider other items listed on the agenda for future discussion – especially changes to the curricular review process in general. Sen. Shannon suggested that as we have become so large and UCC’s task has become larger and more complicated, UCC should have more resources such as a web master. This might also aid on reducing paper use and make it easier for faculty to track the progress of their own proposals in the process.

4. Meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Motion made and passed - that the senate approve the Fulton proposal.