

**Minutes of the
Salisbury University Faculty Senate Meeting
April 27, 2010
Holloway Hall, Room 119**

Senators Present: Mara Chen, J. Craig Clarke, Theodore Gilkey, Kurt Ludwick, Kashi Khazeh, Michael O'Loughlin, E. Patrick McDermott, Darrell Mullins, David Parker, David Rieck, Donna Ritenour, Michael Scott, Kristen Walton, Starlin Weaver, Gail Welsh, Adam Wood

Senators absent: Douglas DeWitt, Vera Street

1. President Clarke called the **meeting to order at 3:30pm**; a quorum was present.

Minutes: The minutes from 04-13-10 were approved with corrections.

2. **CUSF Report, Senator Parker** summarized issues that were discussed at the April CUSF meeting.
 - a. Allocations for the continued construction of the Perdue Building were approved for next year.
 - b. There is a bill introduced to authorize the ability to litigate among colleges.
 - c. Concerns arose regarding the ability for institutions to retain accreditation for some of their programs.
 - d. Graduate assistant and adjunct instructors are discussing the possibility of unionizing their positions.
 - e. Information was presented regarding the standardization of obtaining and maintaining student academic records through a data repository.
 - f. The strategic plan includes a goal to increase the graduation rate to 55% across the Universities in Maryland's state system.
 - g. Representatives from both the AAUP and AFT were available to answer questions regarding several issues, including the three consecutive years of furloughs.

Questions: A question regarding the effects unionizing faculty would have on shared governance and whether the two union organizations merged.

3. **Remarks from the Provost, Dr. Diane Allen**

- a. Dr. Allen expressed concern for a website called Coursehero (coursehero.com). This site permits students to upload tests, homework and notes and then they are marketed to students. She cautioned that these materials are the intellectual property of the course instructor. Faculty can go onto the website and have their course information removed upon request.
- b. The position of Assistant Vice President, Academic Affairs will be vacant with the retirement of Sandra Cohea-Weible. The University is not financially able to advertise this position. There was an internal announcement to tenured faculty regarding interest in serving as Interim Assistant Provost. There were eight faculty that expressed interest. Following the review process, she will announce the appointment.
- c. Dr. Allen provided an overview of the 2009-2010 academic year, her first at Salisbury University. In spite of furloughs she was expressed her optimism since no jobs were lost and six new faculty searches have been approved.

Question: A question was asked regarding an advertised event at Salisbury University. There is concern about whether this outside organization was properly vetted prior to being approved to hold their meeting on the SU Campus. There was not contact information and it appears to promote hate. Dr. Allen will investigate the matter.

Senator McDermott requested that instead of using the term “furlough” to describe the faculty and staff decrease in salary that instead we use the term “pay cuts.” Senator Khazeh preferred that the term “furlough” is used since furloughs do not affect retirement benefits.

4. Committee Reports:

a. Library Committee Report, Dr. Dean Kotlowski, Chair

A resolution was issued to the senators: “The Senate thanks the Salisbury University administration for its support of Blackwell Library in 2009-2010 and strongly encourages the administration to continue to make increased funding for the library an annual priority.” Senator Walton motioned the resolution, which was second.

Motion approved unanimously

b. University Academic Assessment Committee, Dr. Larence Becker, Chair

Dr. Becker presented two documents (attached) for the senators to review and approve. The documents provide the history and purpose of the work conducted by the UAAC regarding general education assessment. Dr. Kara Seigart, ex officio member to the UAAC and Director of University Analysis, Reporting, & Assessment was available to answer questions following a synopsis of the proposal. The document also proposes the formation of a General Education Council.

Discussion of the UAAC Report had several senators concerned about the creation of a General Education Council, specifically how members are appointed and the Council’s reporting line. Senators expressed that curriculum must be a function of the faculty, therefore any committee formed to address curriculum must be done through the Faculty Senate. Discussion regarding the organizational structure of the General Education Council continued. A request to add “Assessment” to the name of the Council was supported.

Motion was put forth to approve the documents and to support the General Education [Assessment] Council as an ad hoc committee to the UAAC.

Motion approved by majority

5. Unfinished Business

- a. Faculty Handbook and Office Hour Policy, Senator Khazeh** asked the senators to consider revising the following sentence found in Ch 9 Student Advising and Registration: *“It is suggested that a minimum of five (5) hours each week be set aside for scheduled office hours.”*

Discussion regarding the specific intent of this sentence occurred. Some interpreted this to mean that faculty must set aside a minimum of five “office” hours per week. Others felt that the word “suggested” inferred that this was not mandatory. Some senators reported that directives were given to faculty by

department chairs to post a minimum five office hours per week. This issue is sent to the Academic Policies Committee for review.

- b. Proposal for benefits for full-time contractual faculty, Senator Parker**
Senator Parker has proposed a motion that urges SU Administration provide retirement benefits to full-time contractual faculty with less than 6 years of full-time employment at SU (attached).

Following a brief discussion it appeared as though there was general support among senators that all full-time faculty receive retirement benefits. Senator Scott proposed that this issue be given as a charge to the Financial Affairs Committee, the motion was second. Senator Scott called the question.

Motion approved unanimously

- c. Ad hoc Committee on Faculty Senate Structure, Senator Gilkey**
Senator Gilkey proposed that an additional senate meeting take place prior to the end of the year to discuss other parts of the proposal. A quorum was not able to meet on the proposed meeting time. Suggestion was made to continue with this discussion at the final faculty senate meeting.

- 6. Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm**

Minutes submitted by Donna Ritenour, Senate Secretary