

Faculty Senate Minutes

April 14 1998

Senators Present: L. Bush E. Crane D. Defino J. DeRidder N. Drewer T. Erskine G. Ference (Vice President) J. Kalb (Secretary) K. Fox M. Garner J. Jenne C. Long S. Muller D. Parker (President) K. Shannon C. Thomas D. Whaley.

A quorum being present the meeting was called to order by Senate President Parker at 3 p.m.

1. The minutes of the February 24 1998 and March 10 1998 meetings were approved.
2. President Parker announced that the latest version of the SSU Grievance Policy Draft was available. Parker asked Senators to compare this latest draft with the previous version distributed by e-mail and to contact Michael O'Loughlin with any comments.
3. The Senators discussed Vision IV--USM Pathways to Lifelong Learning. Tom Erskine announced that the Council of University System Faculty (CUSF) will meet to discuss this "preliminary draft" soon. Kathy Fox suggested that the current efforts of the state legislature--the Legislative Task Force which is reviewing USM and looking into

restructuring the System--are designed by Mike Miller to benefit College Park. Among the problems articulated by the Senators present with regards to this latest document drawn up by the USM AAAC (Academic Affairs Advisory Council) were:

It's a high-handed document created without consensus and absent of informed consent.

It requires a regimentation of faculty roles. The majority of eggs are placed into the National Eminence basket.

It accepts the notion that technology is good for technology's sake without regard for appropriate faculty need-based use of technology.

It calls for long term renewable non-tenure track faculty positions placing the tenure system in jeopardy.

It encourages a virtual university without regard for the quality of education distance education provides the fact that distance education is an expensive venture or the fact that this sort of education is being undertaken elsewhere with mixed results.

Adoption of this document would lead to the loss of independent autonomous missions and responsibilities for the various system institutions.

The call for K through 16 "seamless education" may only lead to higher education in the state as a continuing high school education.

The overall take on USM Pathways to Lifelong Learning was that the Senators have a general distrust of a skewed scheme which has little to do with the mission of the university and has been concocted with no faculty input. President Parker will distill the discussion and comments into a response to the document to be sent to the Chancellor.

4. The Senators also discussed and responded to the Deans' draft document of Expectations of Good Faculty Citizenship. The Deans had asked for input. The Senators had critical responses to the document some even wondering if providing input might suggest collaborating with those who generated such a document. It was pointed out that the Senate is empowered to speak for and on behalf of the faculty not TO the faculty.

Senators questioned the context of and motivation for the preparation of such a document. While many felt that a number of these matters are already addressed in the Faculty Handbook some voiced suspicion and concern that this was another document which provided a system/policy solution for individual personnel problems. Deans should be able to manage their faculty without the need of

another policy document. Some felt a document addressed to all faculty was an insult and not a helpful sort of approach.

Since item number 7 indicates required attendance at professional meetings and conferences Senators wondered if the Deans were prepared to guarantee that funds would be available to defray such expenses.

And perhaps most questionable was the premise of item number 8 which assumes acceptance of the Boyer/Glassick model of scholarship something the faculty wish to remind the Deans has only begun to be discussed among the faculty and is not a fait accompli.

President Parker will distill the sentiments of the Senators and respond to the Provost and Deans.

5. Meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Next Senate meeting scheduled for April 21 1998 will focus on the promotions process as outlined in the Faculty Handbook.

Submitted by John Kalb Senate secretary