

Senate Meeting 11/11/08

Senators attending: Wood, Curtin, Clarke, Welsh, Rieck, Khazeh, Robeck, Gilkey, Weaver, Walton, Scott, Shannon, O'Loughlin, Ludwick, DeWitt, Street

Senators absent: McDermott, Zaprowski

I. President O'Loughlin called the meeting to order at 3.30; a quorum was present. Gives an overview of the meeting of the USM Senate Presidents with the Chancellor on 31 Oct in Adelphi. The primary discussion was over the question of budget and the Chancellor stated that they were hoping to give institutions some autonomy, particularly if furloughs become necessary. Therefore, President O'Loughlin has given a charge (attached hereto) to the Faculty financial Affairs Committee to examine options and bring back recommendations to the Senate for the 9 Dec meeting.

II. Tom Jones Speaks

There is a plan that the institutions have been informed of that if the funds come out in Dec the way they are believed to come, that we should expect a Jan cut that would be similar to the one we have received previously, with another similar cut (570k) with the 2010 budget. It looks like we will get the next cut in January. Slots, though, passed, which may ameliorate our situation by giving us the possibility of money coming from a separate area. The AGIF was originally tied to the corporate tax increase - but then last Nov that was tied to the slots referendum - Which, as it passed, means that deal is still in place.

These cuts also don't take into consideration raises in tuition that might be instituted (asked by Sen. Scott & answered by Provost Jones). Sen Shannon asks about the cuts for 2010 - and Provost Jones says that all new cuts are compounded from the budget from 2009. The cuts we get now are permanent - and the new cuts are added into that.

Sen. Wood asks re: job search information and how this will affect the job searches. Provost Jones suggests that we continue the searches for now, including the move to the conference interviews, but we will not agree to bring people to campus until the budget issues are cleared up in January.

III. Motion to Approve the Minutes from 28 October.

Motion approved, seconded.

Changes suggested by Provost and others. Changes to Minutes agreed to by Secretary.

All in favor of minutes as amended say Aye.

The Ayes carry.

IV. Nicole Munday invited to update the Assessment committee actions.

Munday gives overview of the assessment committee actions and need for assessment for research/gaining feedback into our programs. Also introduces the idea of Course Mapping and shows slides describing the data uncovered so far.

Discussion follows in which Munday describes the process the assessment committee plans to take:

1. First look academic program by academic program to set up this course mapping
2. Then determine what type of assessment makes sense

She admits that none of this will happen overnight, but that we want to figure out how to help students learn better. The committee notes that individual departments will be kept up to date on assessment data.

Provost Jones clarifies that currently, Gen Ed classes are being assessed and that later we hope to assess individual programs.

IV. President O'Loughlin brings up the Strategic Plan. Introduces Amy Hassan and Tom Jones

Please keep focus on policy matters over textual details of the plan, which can be emailed separately.

Provost Jones and Amy Hassan introduce the Plan and hope all have had a chance to read it. Several Senators note they have not yet had time to read the document. As the Senate Committee will be meeting to discuss the document on 17 November, the Strategic Plan can be discussed more thoroughly at that point. The date for comments is officially 1 December, but Hassan noted that the date can be extended for comments to the end of the year.

Discussion ensued touching on 1. Non-degree seeking students, particularly those of retirement age/non-traditional students. 2. The question of International programs – and perhaps expanding access for non-traditional participants as well. 3. The question of Service learning, and how this could be incorporated into International as well. 4. The question of the implementation of the 2 Doctoral programs (education and nursing departments); to which Tom Jones notes that they are under reassessment at the moment. 5. The idea of Distance education and the pros and cons of increasing or limiting this form of education on campus (concerning both traditional distance learning and hybrid classes). Comments arise on both sides of the issue, and comments stress need to make sure that we are clear in course catalogues as to the type of class the students are registering for so they can make their decisions as to what they want to take.

Jones notes that the strategic plan needs to stress that we need a conversation. Says Strategic Plan needs to recognize that we need to address questions, not give specific details about the answers to those questions.

V. O'Loughlin gavel the meeting adjourned.