

Minutes of the
SU Faculty Senate Meeting
April 29, 2008
HH 119

Senators present – Clarke, Curtin, Diriker, Gilkey, Hopson, Khazeh, Lawler, Mullins, O'Loughlin, Rieck, Ritenour, Robinson, Scott, Shannon, Shipper

Senators absent – Root, Rutuelo and Zaprowski

1. Pres. Curtin called the meeting to order at 3:34; a quorum was present.

2. The minutes from the April 22 meeting were accepted as written.

3. Announcements from Senate President - Elizabeth Curtin –

- Hopefully our meeting next week, to elect officers, will be our final meeting for the year. So this should be our last business meeting of the year.
- There were some issues at the last meeting of the Fiscal Advisory Committee; the upshot is that there will be no supplemental funds this year. It was decided to keep the remaining money on hand in case we have to return some to the start later this year. Perhaps the Senate Finance Committee will be in a better position to give a response to the administration later.
- Melissa Thomas and some faculty have been piloting "Safe Assign" as an alternative to Turnitin.com. The advantages of this system are that it works with MyClasses and would be much less expensive. The pilot will be finished at the end of the semester and she would like feedback so she can make a decision by the end of June. Sen. Shannon suggested that even if we are going to change, it would be nice to continue Turnitin.com through the fall until faculty are familiar with the new system. But that may not be possible as turnitin.com is very expensive and is probably on a July-June contract. Also, one reason that Melissa wants a response soon is so she can schedule training sessions for faculty. The other concern about the change is whether we will lose the data base that we have already built up. The senate officers together with the Learning with Technology committee will review the results from the pilot and give a response on behalf of the senate to Melissa before the end of June.

4. A Word from the Administration – Bob Tardiff , Assoc. Provost

- **A Strategic Planning Day is planned for May 20** – the meeting will be open to all faculty and staff, an e-mail will go out soon. Hope to get as many there as possible. The goal is to have the draft plan completed by the start of fall semester and final plan accepted by the end of fall 08. Two major components (the Facilities Master Plan and Enrollment Management Plan) are just about complete, but more work is needed on the remaining two – Academic Programs and Faculty/Staff/Student Engagement. Tom will soon be forming a group – from the Long Range Academic Planning Committee plus another 4-5 faculty and the Deans to guide the May 20 meeting. Important topics include: the mix of on-line and traditional courses, cost analysis of programs (& where we can grow without additional costs), and flow of students through the majors. The break out groups will be led by Provost Jones and

Dean Cowell (Academic Programs) and Ellen Neufeldt and Bob Tardiff (Engagement).

- Provost Jones, Assoc. Provost Tardiff, Perdue Interim Dean Hoffman, Director of International Studies Stiegler and Perdue faculty member Yao recently returned from a trip to China where Jones and Hoffamn **signed an exchange agreement with the Dongbei University of Finance and Economics located in Dalian**. By this agreement 5 of their students will come to SU for the second and third years of their program. The agreement allows for the reverse – some of our students spending one or more semester there and it could be students in any major. There is a Dell computer facility in Dalian, so perhaps computer science or information systems would be good choices.
- 5. **Facilities Master Plan Report - Greig Mitchell & Jeff Downes** – A FMP update is required every 5 years to address changes in programs, emphasis, funding issues. Needs identified included: fitness facilities (just acquired Merritt Fitness Center & plan small fitness rooms in dorms); renovating & increasing student housing (have 1700 beds on campus, hope to add 900 more by summer 2011); connecting and enhancing pathways. With regard to building, up next are the parking garage (groundbreaking this July) and Perdue Building (groundbreaking July 09) and possibly new dorms on either the Allenwood/ Maintenance building site or replacing Dogwood Village. Within the next five years - new library (actively pursuing funding), renovate Maggs, new field house, moving maintenance building, and a fine art & performing center. For the next 10 -15 year period – additional field house (Maggs replacement?), move tennis courts, underpass at Rte 13 & College Ave., another parking deck. But the plan is dynamic, may change. There will be a couple open sessions on this and senators are welcome to contact them with questions or comments.
- 6. **Old Business – Oral Communication Across the Curriculum (OCXC) – Scott Britten** – Two documents were distributed to senators with the agenda. Britten mentioned that the budget is for a fully implemented program, it will take some time for it to develop to that level. So they are not asking for endorsement of the full budget now, just endorsement of the program initiative. Sen. Mullins made a motion that the senate endorse the proposal before them. Seconded. Discussion – Sen. Khazeh and others expressed concern that funding this would take away funds from other areas. Although funding from academic enhancement money from state and funding from the pool for the Success Center were mentioned as possibilities, a number of senators still had that concern. Sens. Diriker and Shannon would like to see this as part of or linked to the Success Center. Shannon would also like to see more demonstration of a need. Sen. Gilkey suggested that this should be part of the Strategic Planning meeting on May 20. Sen. Scott suggested that as the plan is quite well developed, it might have a good chance of getting external funding. Diriker agreed with these two suggestions and made a motion to table the motion on the proposal until the Fall.

Hand vote – 9 in favor of tabling, 4 opposed, motion to table carries

- 7. **New Business – Proposal concerning evaluation and promotion criteria– VP O'Loughlin** who had sent two documents – a draft of proposed changes to the faculty handbook and an explanation – to senators a week ago. O'Loughlin stated that he wasn't going to make a motion at this meeting, but wanted to start the discussion and then introduce the proposal in the fall. Briefly, the problem is the lack of faculty participation in the senate and senate committees – evidenced by unfilled seats on

committees, lack of volunteers to chair and relatively few people running for senate or committees. He views this as a chronic, rather than episodic, problem. O'Loughlin sees two aspects of this, 1) a lack of education of younger faculty as to the importance of shared governance and 2) a lack of incentive for participating. It may take a number of years to address the first, but one way to address the second by changing the evaluation criteria for promotion to emphasize service at the University level. His proposal is 1) to require excellence in teaching and one of the other two areas, scholarship or service, according to the faculty member's choice. Substantive experience would still be required in the third area. And 2) to elevate the minimum level of service required for it to be considered "excellent". This would open up more pathways for faculty to achieve promotion. Pres. Curtin reminded that this is already the case for promotion from assistant to associate professor, so we are only talking about a change in promotion from assoc to full professor. Discussion - A number of senators suggested the need to define more specifically the difference between substantive and excellent and also noted that currently the word excellent is only used with regard to teaching; "superior" is used as the criteria for scholarship and service. (The faculty handbook defines this as at least as good as others who have recently been promoted). Sen. Scott agreed that there needs to be incentives for service, but thinks that it is reasonable for us to expect full professors to be superior in both scholarship and service. He suggested that immediate rewards, such as money, recognition, good parking spaces would be appropriate. O'Loughlin agreed that money is relevant, but suggested the best way to that is through promotion. Sen. Khazeh thinks there may be other reasons for the lack of participation including 1) the fact that larger schools dominate so that smaller schools may not feel represented and 2) the overturning of committee proposals by the senate. Khazeh (as well as Mullins, Shannon and Hopson) didn't want to see a requirement for service at the university level decrease service at the department and schools levels. Hopson noted that there will be many faculty searches over the next 10 years or so. Shannon was also concerned that there could be the potential for actual contests for election to some committees, so that some faculty may have a problem getting elected. So willingness to serve should be considered. Sen. Clarke mentioned that name recognition can play a role in who gets elected. And those who run and aren't elected may give up. Curtin suggested that service via sabbatical replacements can help in that regard. Scott reminded that we are constrained by the percentages in the faculty handbook that come from the system; Curtin thought the provost had indicated some flexibility there. Sen. Diriker suggested that if this passes there needs to be a grandfather clause for three years for those already in progress under old system. Khazeh hopes that when we come up with the final version of the proposal it will also address the problem of Assoc. Professors on the Promotions Committee evaluating the applications for promotion to full.

8. Adjourned at 5:02 PM.

Motions made and passed at meeting -

1. A motion to table until fall the motion endorsing proposal for an Oral Communication Across the Curriculum program.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Lawler, Secretary