

DRAFT
SU Faculty Senate Meeting
14 February 2006
HH 119

Senators Present: DeRidder, Groth, Hopson, Howard, Lawler, McKenzie, Morrison, Muller, Mullins, O'Loughlin, Parker, Ritenour, Robeck, Robinson, Shannon, Shipper, Pereboom

Senators Absent: none

1. Pereboom called the meeting to order at 3:30pm
2. The minutes from November 29, 2005 and December 6, 2005 were approved.
3. The Provost provided the following updates:

Proposed budget:

-SU's proposed budget includes a 15.3% increase in appropriations which recognizes the growth in the student body for next year. We will grow by 323 full time students, some of which will be new first year students, transfers, graduate students, off campus students (i.e., the higher ed center in Wye Mills), and the re-enrollment of students. Regarding transfer students, we are trying to recruit those in honors programs at community colleges.

-This summer national ads will appear announcing 12 additional tenure track searches for Fall 06.

Capital Budget:

The Governor announced the capital budget which includes the new TETC building. They added in inflationary costs caused by delays. The ground breaking will be as early as this summer. The new Perdue school building is also in the future.

Curriculum Change Study:

The Provost thanked everyone for attending the recent Faculty Development Day. He is available to talk to us about possible next steps and can do so by attending Chairs/Department meetings if invited. He believes that this new model will result in a qualitative difference for high school students entering college.

Distance Education/Online Courses:

He revealed that this is high on the radar at the state level as a way that students can meet needs not otherwise able to meet (for example, if there aren't enough seats in a class, if we want to grow in other areas). He also stated the importance of creating an online course policy.

Middle States:

The visiting team arrives on March 5, a series of meetings begin March 6 and an open meeting takes places on March 8th in the Great Hall of Holloway Hall. The Committee created a self study report of about 100 pages with a CD-ROM. Materials will be viewed in a real and virtual documents room. Our input is appreciated.

2. Comments from the President, Dr. Dudley-Eshbach:

- The proposed budget is a victory for SU and an acknowledgment that enrollment growth should be funded.
- The new library needs to be fast-tracked to come on line as part of our future plan and it needs to be the focus point of our campus.
- The Perdue gift will be announced at the end of March.
- MHEC will approve our mission statement tomorrow which includes the possibility of doctoral programs.
- She read from her budget testimony that she'll give on March 1.

The president answered questions from the floor regarding the timeline for the library and the funding of the new Perdue building. In about 6 months to a year she'll be able to give a better indication of when the library project can begin. The Perdue building did not "leap-frog" over the library project, rather, it was added to an already existing roster of projects (a rarity), in part due to the gift. Our first parking garage project will begin in 2008.

3. Committee Reports/Updates

Ad Hoc Committee on Curriculum Change

Susan Muller reported that the committee is discussing the form of the report and the presentation of the model. She asked for an invitation for the committee to meet with the President and the Provost.

Ad Hoc Senate Finance Committee

Pereboom will circulate this new committee's charge via e-mail.

4. Old Business

Faculty Welfare Committee

Diane Davis reviewed the changes to the ART document (see attachment). She thanked Ellen Zinner for her efforts.

A motion was made to accept the changes, it was approved and accepted by all.

Online Course Policy

Donna Ritenour reviewed the changes based on the 5 points suggested as a guide (see attachment). She highlighted the policy that an existing course does not need to go to the UCC, but that the department could use the revised checklist as a guide. New courses would need to go to the UCC and would include the checklist.

- Senate feedback included Roebeck's preference for the use of "e.g." instead of "i.e." and a reminder that not everything on the checklist needs to be on the syllabus.
- In addition, much debate focused on the section of the document (see attachment, Chapter 9, Section B) under "Guidelines for Online/Hybrid Courses" subheading, "Conversion of existing courses to Online/Hybrid sections." As stated, Senators argued that the checklist, syllabus and supporting documents for existing courses should be submitted to the department chair, SCC and the Dean, but not for approval. Similarly a copy of the checklist with the syllabus and supporting

documents should be forwarded to the UCC for acknowledgement, but not for approval. This was put forth as a “friendly amendment” which was fully supported and approved.

5. New Business

Priority Registration

On behalf of the Honors Program Committee, Lucy Morrison reviewed a request from the committee for the Senate to review and recommend that freshman and sophomore Honors Program students be given priority registration for their classes. A primary reason for the request is that course scheduling is a challenge for honors program students and is the key reason why students drop out and don't join.

President Dudley-Eshbach offered feedback regarding the request. She suggested that if there is a retention issue in the Honors Program than we need to know why. She indicated that it might be time to look at other models and to have a consultant come in and offer an assessment.

Senate feedback focused on the following issues: whether or not Honors Program students deserve a perk that other students equally challenged by scheduling programs do not have, if priority registration would privilege academic excellence and inspire more students to join the program, if it privileges Honors Program students over other straight A students, and issues related to elitism in the academy.

Honors program Student Association President Abby Truet spoke in favor of priority registration for the students.

In light of the robust discussion and the hour, a motion was made to table and was approved.

6. Pereboom adjourned the meeting at 5:07pm

Respectfully submitted by Jody Morrison