

**University of Denver
Faculty Senate
February 9, 2007
Mary Reed Building, Renaissance Room South
Minutes**

Senators (or their Proxy) present: Alvaro Arias, Davor Balzar, Rick Barbour, John Burnett, Rodney Buxton, David Christophel, Bonnie Clark, Ron DeLyser, Sandy Dixon, Jack Donnelly, Sandra Eaton, Margo Espenlaub (Exec. Secretary), Ronald Fariña, James Gilroy, Deb Greal, Michele Hanna, John Hill, Michael Karson, Brian Kiteley, Gregg Kvistad (Provost), Walter LaMendola, Rick Leaman, Michael Levine-Clark, Mario Lopez, Seth Masket), Don McCubbrey, Lily Mendoza, Robert Mill, Sarah Morelli, Mia Mulvey, Rahul Nair, Ved Nanda, Paul Novak, Scott Phillips, Cathy Potter (Past President), Cathy Reed, Charles Reichardt, Buck Sanford (proxy for Susan Sadler), Dean Saitta (President), Nancy Sampson, Jack Sheinbaum, Gordon von Stroh, Tim Weaver, Todd Wells, and Yavuz Yasar.

Call to Order

Dean Saitta, Faculty Senate President, called the meeting to order at noon and welcomed everyone present. Motion to approve the minutes from January 12, 2007 was seconded and approved.

President Saitta noted reminders of upcoming events:

- February 16: First Annual Public Good Conference, 8:00am-2:45pm, Driscoll Center
- February 26: Deadline for receipt of Faculty Research Fund (FRF) Grant Applications—electronic copy to Karen Fennell at gfac@du.edu
- March 1: Michael Bérubé, Penn State U, Public Lecture, “Liberal Campuses and Free Societies,” 4:00, Sturm Hall, Lindsay Auditorium.
- March 8: Faculty Meeting/Club, 4-6 pm, Mary Reed Building, Renaissance Room South.
- March 9, Faculty Senate meeting with special guest Chancellor Coombe (the February 23 Chancellor’s Roundtable is cancelled).

Provost’s Report and Questions

Provost Kvistad reported on the discrepancies in the current Parental Leave Policy for faculty. There is an effort underway to correct inconsistent language in the policy. The proposal currently being worked on is for faculty to be eligible for parental leave in the first year of employment at DU. Dick Gartrell, Director of Human Resources, will soon speak to the Senate about the policy.

The University budget is making its way through the approval process and will go next to the Board of Trustees. A 6.075 tuition increase is budgeted for next year, and is the lowest in five years. Need-based financial aid for students is scheduled to be increased. The budget proposes a salary increase for promotions: full professor, \$10,000; assoc. professor, \$5,000. While Board approval of the FY 2008 budget is still pending, in the past the Board has been supportive of salary increases that are tied to performance. Promotion increases are clearly related to performance.

Pres. Saitta thanked Provost Kvistad for his report to the Faculty Senate.

Honors Review Committee (HRC) Proposal—First Reading (Ron DeLyser)

Sen. DeLyser presented an overview of the proposal in its final draft stage and asked for questions. He attended a meeting of the deans in AHSS and reminded Senators to distribute the proposal to their faculty.

Sen. Reed noticed the change in administration of the Honors Program. Sen. DeLyser said that the HRC wanted to have faculty more involved in teaching. Honors office had a heavy burden so the HRC wanted to split the burden between administering scholarships and fellowships. Sen. Karson asked what the potential was for interdisciplinary courses. Sen. Eaton asked for clarification of co-curricular activities. An example would be attending an opera or other activities and writing a reaction paper. The HRC wants these activities to be optional rather than required. Assist. Provost Karas responded to a question about national searches for honors faculty. These are one-year appointments. Provost Kvistad confirmed that these are not permanent faculty positions. The hiring of honors faculty is to be determined by the dean of the unit.

Sen. Christophel asked how advising would be addressed. Sen. DeLyser responded that more faculty were to be involved in advising. Some departments will devise templates for what honors looks like in their fields. Sen. Sampson asked if the Honors Program change is an unfunded mandate. She also asked if there is a means for student input. Sen. DeLyser responded that students have access to the HRC report on Blackboard. Some students have made appointments to speak with the Provost. Another question was asked if fall 2008 would be the start date for the new program. The answer is yes.

Sen. Reichardt asked what the requirements were for the Honors Program. Assist. Provost Karas responded that departments set their own requirements for distinction. A comment was added that achieving distinction in a department was a national standard for honors programs.

Sen. Sanford (proxy) asked how biology will get honors designation with “H” after course. The response was that there will be no change in the way a liberal arts requirement functions. Sen. DeLyser said he did not want students with AP or IB credit to take classes they had already tested out of. Sen. Masket asked if students were dropping out of the Honors Program. Sen. DeLyser responded that the HRC met with students in interviews and focus groups. Students said the program was inflexible. Sen. DeLyser said the HRC wants to make the program easier for students to enter and to offer more flexibility and more points of entry.

Sen. Eaton asked about contract classes. Sen. DeLyser said these are to be made more meaningful and in-depth. Sen. Eaton also asked about increased workload for faculty who teach courses with honors add-ons or H-courses. This is an issue for large classes in NSM which students might opt to take instead of NATS if they had AP or IB credits. She expressed concern about students needing to take more classes to achieve the required hours in honors if higher level courses they took in NSM instead of NATS did not carry honors credit.

Sen. Clark asked if AP student would get rid of gen. ed. requirements. Some students would have to stay an additional year at DU if they were in the honors program and had to take other honors courses to replace gen. ed. requirements. A committee member replied that although gen. ed. requirements can be decreased by having AP/IP credits, the requirements for number of hours of honors courses stays the same.

Pres. Saitta asked how much latitude there was to change line items in the proposal. Sen. DeLyser said that that's up to the Undergraduate Council. Pres. Saitta then referred the honors proposal to the Senate Academic Planning Committee who will provide recommendations at the March 9 senate meeting.

Sen. Clark asked about ethical issues related to access to student feedback and discussion on Blackboard. Assist. Provost Karas will make this available to faculty.

Pres. Saitta thanked Sen. DeLyser for his report to the Faculty Senate.

Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work (RSCW) Task Force Report (Sandy Eaton and Cathy Potter)

Past President Potter co-chairs the RSCW Task Force with Vice Provost Moran. Sen. Eaton is also a member of the group. There is a link to the task force report on the Portfolio website with deans' presentations and surveys. Eaton and Potter distributed a handout with an overview of the report. Please see the attached powerpoint slides for specific content. The RSCW report is division based, and is not a proposal but a recommendation with a range of ideas. Goals should be crafted by each division. The report will be sent to the Senate Academic Planning Committee for feedback. Eaton and Potter thanked the administration for their support.

Sen. Karsten likes the way the report ties things together. Sen. Donnelly likes the time constraint emphasis. He asked what the deans' response was regarding inequities in some units that prohibit a request for course release for faculty research. The Provost responded that each dean has a constrained budget. Some things can be planned but other things, like parental leave and the PROF, cannot be planned. There can be flexibility in planning but there is still the resource issue. Potter asked if there were any efforts for research to have a time budget. The Provost responded that more resources and other revenue streams are needed.

Sen. Donnelly said that even with resources for PROF, faculty are not allowed to request course release with replacement. They cannot buy out time through a university program. Potter said this would be a good discussion for the units. Eaton stressed the productivity of working together to address issues in the RSCW report.

Sen. McCubbrey asked at the division level what assurance do we have that the standards are consistent. The Provost said what counts as good scholarship has to be a dean's issue. There are different standards and he needs to assume these are the highest. Deans consistently support this idea.

A question was asked about the value of scholarship in different venues. Potter said this is up to the divisions; she referred to the Stony Brook rankings with a rubric (featured in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*). The divisions need to set their own goals.

Sen. Reichardt asked what was intended by the recommendation prioritizing RSCW in merit raises (p. 6, A.2). Past Pres. Potter said that currently it is not clear how merit raises are established. What is needed is clarity and transparency in goals and rewards. There also needs to be a time budget that takes account of both teaching and RSCW.

Pres. Saitta pointed out that we are in the midst of several cultural shifts: research, diversity, and teaching. Past. Pres. Potter said the RSCW task force report does not want research to be pitted against teaching. Sen. Phillips said banking courses—loading up courses in quarters with one off for research—was the practice in some institutions. The Provost responded that this practice creates unintended consequences. Sen. Donnelly said his unit does this formally. Sen. Eaton stressed that the best ideas from units can provide a model.

Today's presentation covered only a few topics. Senators and all faculty are encouraged to read the report and the supporting information that is on the Portfolio web site.

Pres. Saitta thanked Sen. Eaton and Past President Potter for their report to the Faculty Senate.

Update on Continuing Business

- Grade Inflation – still being researched by Dennis Becker who will report back to the Senate in April.
- Tuition Exchange – ongoing discussion with Julia McGahey and Dick Gartrell and on the *Faculty Forum* weblog
- AAUP Chapter – a meeting yesterday with national and local AAUP reps. DU has enough faculty interested to revive a campus chapter (need seven to start a chapter). A full report of the meeting is available on the *Faculty Forum* weblog.

New Business

Sen. Sampson, Student Relations Committee (SRC), reported that students are interested in working with faculty to post course syllabi on the Registration website. They are also interested in experimenting with webcams in classrooms. The SRC will continue discussions with the Student Senate.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was seconded and passed. President Saitta adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m. and thanked everyone for their participation today.

Respectfully submitted by

Margo Espenlaub, Faculty Senate Executive Secretary