

**University of Denver
Faculty Senate
November 17, 2006
Mary Reed Building, Renaissance Room South
Minutes**

Senators (or their Proxy) present: Bill Anderson, Alvaro Arias, Davor Balzar, Rick Barbour, Rodney Buxton, Victor Castellani, proxy for David Christophel, Bonnie Clark, Nick Cutforth, Ron DeLyser, Sandy Dixon, Sandra Eaton, Margo Espenlaub (Exec. Secretary), Ronald Fariña, James Gilroy, Deb Grealy, proxy for Michele Hanna, John Hill, Michael Karson, Maciej Kumosa, Greg Kvistad (Provost), Walter LaMendola, Rick Leaman, Michael Levine-Clark, Mario Lopez, Lisa Conant (proxy for Seth Masket), proxy for Don McCubbrey, Mia Mulvey, Rahul Nair, Paul Novak, Scott Phillips, Cathryn Potter (Past-President), Susan Sadler, Dean Saitta (President), Roger Salters, Nancy Sampson, Jack Sheinbaum, Gordon Von Stroh, Tim Weaver, Todd Wells, Margaret Whitt, and Yavuz Yasar.

Call to Order

Dean Saitta, Faculty Senate President, called the meeting to order at noon and welcomed everyone present. Sen. Cox moved to approve the minutes from October 20, 2006. This motion was seconded by Sen. DeLyser and approved.

Provost's Report and Questions

Dean Searches

Provost Kvistad announced the chairs of the four dean search committees: Nancy Allen (AHSS), Peter Buirski (GSSW), John Kice (NSM), and Ginger Maloney (TWC). Faculty are urged to provide feedback on these very important searches.

Marsico Initiative

The Marsico Initiative, funded for a five-year period, has been in place for 4.5 years. The Marsico committee has made its final recommendations for how the remaining budget is to be allocated. DU is also investing 4.5 million into the Marsico budget for three major programs at the undergraduate level: (1) the Numeracy Initiative for non-science majors; (2) a Languages Center, somewhat like the Writing and Research Center now in place. The Languages Center will focus on languages other than English and might include a summer program similar to that of Middlebury College, which would bring students to DU to study. This program would be connected to the Cherrington Global Scholars program; (3) the Undergraduate Research Center.

The Provost was recently invited to present the Cherrington Global Scholars program at the Association of College Educators (ACE) conference. DU has invested money and energy to advance the quality of this program. DU is number two in the U.S. in numbers of students who are sent abroad to study. Yeshiva University is number one because of the large number of students sent to Israel for study.

Scheduling Final Exams

The Provost discussed the mistake made in the scheduling of finals for fall quarter. A similar problem of scheduling multiple finals into one time slot will occur in winter quarter. The Provost apologized for the impact this has on faculty.

Sen. Cutforth asked about follow-up to the Provost Conference on DU and The City. Provost confirmed the success of this conference and that follow up on issues of early childhood education and homelessness is underway. The Provost is meeting with the director of the Homeless Initiative in Denver. There is much faculty interest and scholarship capacity at DU to deal with both of these sets of issues.

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

PROF Review Process: Past-President Cathy Potter

Past-President Potter will oversee the PROF process for one more year. She inquired about how units are revising their processes and asked that Senators meet to determine who the senatorial point person will be for each division. DCB, GSSW, and Education have established policies for their selection process. AHSS also has a process, and NSM has been using its senators as the review committee.

Sen. DeLyser asked if there was a repository for all procedures. Past-Pres. Potter will send this to Pres. Saitta who will forward the information to the Senate.

President Saitta thanked Past-President Potter for her report to the Faculty Senate.

DU.EDU

Ken Stafford, Vice-Chancellor for University Technology Services, presented information on the updated University website. The website is now designed to be outward-looking to the 50,000 people that log on to it daily. WebCentral faces inward to the University community. Faculty, staff, and admissions may request further development from UTS for their uses of WebCentral, and dashboards and channels may be customized. The portal will be more job-specific and much different than current resources and will address what individuals want to do. UTS has duplicated all systems but is still working on Blackboard. We now have ipod video casts and streaming video. Use of first and last names for email is standardized. Stafford hopes faculty will migrate to Outlook to access mail; old email addresses will remain in use.

Sen. Yasar inquired about the transfer of email to Webmail. Stafford said the UTS Helpdesk can assist with this as well as with transferring address books. Sen. Dixon asked what the advantages were to using Outlook. Stafford pointed out the advantages of the electronic calendar, notes, etc.—all much better than using WebCentral. Stafford responded to additional inquiries about off-site time lags, podcasts, Blackboard classes, and storage capacity. He noted that a .5 gig server is now available with enlarged capacity. Sen. Wells asked who has access to faculty passwords. Stafford responded that in the LDAP system all passwords are encrypted; there are five questions that must be answered to gain access to a password. Sen. Farina commented on DCB's system. Stafford said UTS is removing separate servers and redundant mail servers.

Stafford would like 4-5 faculty for a committee to brainstorm about uses of WebCentral. Pres. Saitta asked about the time commitment for serving on the committee. Stafford said one hour every other week, over an eight week period. Pres. Saitta will work to find faculty for the committee.

Stafford responded to queries about instituting systems other than Microsoft, affirming that others are in place, and to Blackboard assistance in that CTL is the academic side of Blackboard, so faculty should contact them.

Past-Pres. Potter asked about back-up space. Stafford responded that with the .5 gigabyte (one billion characters) space is adequate. DU will eventually have petabytes (a trillion characters). UTS drops 150,000 spams per day. At present, DU has the fastest system and Stafford wants it to stay that way.

Pres. Saitta thanked Ken Stafford for his report to the Faculty Senate.

New Business

There was no new business.

Future Business

Pres. Saitta reported on the Chancellor's Roundtable. The Chancellor encouraged the Senate to be more proactive in its activities. Pres. Saitta listed a few things that the Senate might take the lead on, such as a study of grade inflation (suggested by a faculty member at the Roundtable), and various personnel issues (faculty status descriptions in the APT document; faculty grievance policy; transition to retirement policy).

Pres. Saitta opened the floor to discussion of other issues that might be addressed next quarter (winter 2007). Sen. Clark said we need a discussion of diversity across divisions, where diversity is interpreted broadly to include age, sexual orientation, and ability. The Provost said the Center for Multicultural Excellence is trying to put committees on diversity into place in every unit. The deans have been receptive to this and to doing more to promote an awareness of diversity issues among faculty and staff.

Pres. Saitta noted that the Faculty Forum Weblog is up and running. Sen. Whitt will send an email to the faculty with access information.

Mini-Minor Task Force Meets; Subcommittees Meet

Adjournment

Sen. Sampson moved to adjourn: this was seconded by Sen. Levine-Clark, and passed unanimously. 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