University of Denver
Faculty Senate
Minutes
February 7, 2003

President Leon Giles convened the meeting at 12:08

Agenda

1) Review and approval of minutes for January 10, 2002
2) Report-Demonstration of University "Pipeline" project, Teri Hoyer, University Technology Services
3) Status of Marsico Initiative, George Potts, Chair, Marsico Committee
4) Provost report
5) Committee reports
6) New Business
7) Announcements and reminders:
       i. Chancellor's Roundtable—February 28, 2003, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
       ii. Chancellor's Roundtable—May 9, 2003, 12:30 – 12:30 p.m.
       iii. Faculty honors nominations—deadline, March 3, 2002
8) Adjournment

Review and approval of minutes for January 10, 2002
The minutes were approved. *(Note: Although the minutes were approved without correction or amendment, Provost Bob Coombe made an important clarification regarding the sabbatical policy discussion. See the provost's report below.)*

Report/Demonstration of University "Pipeline" project --Teri Hoyer, UTS
Highlights:
- Cindy Crouch and Mike Johnson attended as technical resources.
- The Pipeline project is in development. The Senate was given the first presentation outside of the development team. The presentation demonstrated the prototype for WebCentral.
- WebCentral is a portal, a gateway to web-based resources which will allow the DU community easy access to applications such as blackboard, email, and calendaring. Its content is very specific to the DU community.
- WebCentral will be personalized and customizable. It can distinguish among faculty, students, and staff and can be customized to allow users to select functions they use most.
- We chose Campus Pipeline because of its solid reputation and because the product is built exclusively for colleges. It is cost effective as well.

- The product was packaged with a foundation that allows one data source for all user profiles. WebCentral will make it possible to have one log-in and password for everything you do.
- The product has been in development for several months. Several groups have served on the development team. A steering group has made strategic decisions. Faculty representatives have served on the content development team. There also is a working group helping to identify uses for WebCentral and an integration team and UTS administrative development team.
- A soft launch is planned for spring. DCB graduate students will be trained at spring soar, and they will provide a learning curve to allow the rest of us to enter the product gradually to prepare for the fall full launch.
- The site address is www.webcentral.du.edu.

Questions: Arthur Best: Can class announcements be posted personally for each student so they will not have to go to the course site and check for announcements? Hoyer: That will not be possible; however, instructors can put announcements on the calendar for students to access. Don Stedman: Will the CTL portfolio program and WebCentral be integrated? Hoyer: Yes, they will be linked. Giles: The CTL representatives will make a presentation to the senate on the portfolio project. Petr Vojtechovský: Passwords presently are limited to eight characters. Will password guidelines change? Crouch: During the development phase, we will stay with the six-digit pin, but we probably will change it over the summer to allow for a user-selected password. Hoyer: Security is an important consideration. WebCentral has a short timeout default—15 minutes—as a security measure, in case you walk away and leave it open. Users can set a time-out preference. Cobb-Riley: How will the DU homepage change? Hoyer: We will work over the summer to create a new DU homepage that will be very specific and user-friendly for prospective students. Davor Balzar: Will we be encouraged to manage our email through this system? Will hackers be able to access our messages easily? (The concern seemed to be that WebCentral's use of a single data source for all user profiles might make personal information vulnerable to hackers; whereas in the current system users access their mail through various applications, e.g., Outlook, Webmail, Agora) Johnson clarified: In the current system everyone's email resides on the server unless the user has set it up to take his/her mail off. Hoyer and Crouch explained that users can continue to use Agora and Outlook.

Status of Marsico Initiative--George Potts, Chair, Marsico Committee
- The Marsico Initiative is the result of a $10,000,000 gift over 5 years to foster excellence in arts and sciences undergraduate education. There are very few constraints on how the funds can be spent. The steering committee has worked hard to be open to possibilities. It is a five-year initiative, and it is critical to have faculty input throughout the life of the initiative.
- The steering committee has met with departments and department chairs, held faculty forums, and issued a call for proposals. Updates are offered through a blackboard site that includes submitted proposals and meeting minutes. Use the password **marsico2002** to register for the blackboard site and access the information.

- The steering committee established a separate student advisory committee and initially invited the group to brainstorm without benefit of background information or collected data. An important goal shared by the steering committee and the independent student group was to find ways to enhance the intellectual atmosphere on campus. Students felt that the prevailing campus culture reflected students' desire to fulfill requirements rather than an interest in ideas. The student advisory committee now has received all available information and is working with the steering committee as well as the various "cells."
- Several "cells" are working on identified focus areas. The goal of the writing cell is to emphasize writing throughout the curriculum. The thrust is not remediation but rather to incorporate writing intensive courses throughout the four-year program. The general population does not have a facility with quantitative skills and the numeracy cell would like to promote an awareness of how to think quantitatively. The first-year experience cell will address soar and UDCC to enhance their academic components in an attempt to excite students' intellect before they are acculturated to the "fulfilling requirements" mentality. The intellectual depth cell is exploring ways to encourage students to go deeper into topics. The experiential learning cell is considering ways student can apply the knowledge they've gained in the classroom outside of the university environment. It is not a service requirement but an opportunity for real-world application of acquired knowledge. The faculty enrichment cell is working to find ways to prevent the initiative from being "a drag" on faculty.
- Several pilot projects are being instituted: writing intensive and numeracy awareness courses and a two-credit depth tutorial added onto an existing four-credit course. Assessment will be critical as the committee determines how the pilots will coalesce into a workable plan.
- There are several issues yet to be addressed. A major concern is staffing the initiatives. Ideally tenure-line faculty would teach the courses on load. Most of the pilots are being done on tenure-line overload, but that is not a long-term solution. Coombe commented that there is the possibility of adding tenure-line faculty, but that solution will be considered in the future, not during the pilot phase. Assessment will be critical. The committee is working with Sheila Summers-Thompson to sort this out.

Questions: Dean Saitta asked if the pilot being offered will serve as an alternative to UDCC. Potts said that it will. Are faculty responsible for assessment or will there be a unified assessment tool. Potts: Because the courses will have different goals, it will be difficult to develop a unified assessment tool. Don Stedman asked what percentage of the current cost of undergraduate education does the Marsico gift represent. Coombe responded that the instructional budget for arts and sciences education is a large portion of the University's total budget, so $2,000,000 a year is a small percentage of the total budget for those divisions. Ann Mahoney congratulated Potts on a fantastic job of explaining the initiative. Katherine Reed asked whether the committee had thought about recruiting the kinds of students we want. Potts responded that recruitment was not an option for the funds. Catherine Sailor asked if there had been discussion about helping faculty to the things we already do. Potts explained that one of the options in the committee's call for proposals would include that possibility. Dennis Barrett added that

he is a member of a group working to bringing speakers for the cultural passport cell. Ingrid Tague clarified that there are two cells working on visiting scholars—the intellectual depth cell and the first-year experience cell. Barrett asked where the cultural passport fit. Potts explained that it likely will be an add-on to UDCC. The idea of the cultural passport is to require students to attend a number of cultural and intellectual events on campus. Barrett commented that he is hopeful that the passport will become carrot rather than a stick. The events will be so wonderful that students will want to attend.

Provost Report—Bob Coombe
Highlights:
Although the provost did not have new items to report, he wished to clarify information regarding the origin of the sabbatical revision proposal. Coombe noted that the senate minutes (January 10, 2003) "suggest that this proposal was brought forward by administration." He wanted to ensure that the senate was aware that the proposal was not an administrative initiative but was brought forward by the UPAC scholarship committee. What the board and provost's office would like is for the senate to work on the initiative.

Questions: David Cox asked for an update on the semester issue. Coombe responded that the Deans' Council would like to look at structural issues as well as budget issues, but nothing is imminent. Stedman asked about a rumor he heard that salary increases came out of the deans' budget—money that they don't really have. Coombe explained that the deans supplied ½% of the merit increase—an arrangement that he finds reasonable. In addition, some deans did provide funding from there operating budgets to selectively increase meritorious awards beyond the ½ % the deans were required to fund, a practice consistent with prior-year awards. The merit pool was 4% and the ½ % came out of divisional budgets.

Committee Reports
No reports were offered.

New Business
- The sabbatical issue will be taken up early next week in a meeting with representatives from various committees: academic affairs, personnel, finance. The committee will address process and policy issues.
- A discussion of overload policy is going on. Stedman explained that SPARC wrote a policy to determine what overload is on federally funded grants. The policy discussion raises the question of what a normal load is. SPARC's policy drafting continues. The outcome will come to the senate for discussion and comment, but Stedman is not certain when that might happen. Catherine Potter added that when we use the term "overload," people think about teaching, but SPARK's policy is really only about overload related to externally funded projects and will not deal with teaching overload although it will probably raise some questions and cause us to think about our policy. Giles noted that the current discussion presents a potential issue regarding faculty load because the same rules may apply across divisions regarding overload. We may need to be

thinking about the subject. Joe Szyiliowicz asked whether or not it is official University policy that you can devote one day per week to outside work. Giles knew of the long-standing rumor but was not aware of a written University policy. Potter said that although the notion is commonly held, SPARC researched that rumor and found no written policy. An unidentified senator reported from the floor that DCB does have a written policy statement to that affect

- Ved Nanda raised a concern regarding international students from 25 countries targeted by the homeland security act and the necessity to ensure that they are not under-enrolled.   He explained that the security act requires that students remain enrolled full-time (12 credit hours). If they become under-enrolled, they will be detained and deportation proceedings will be initiated. Great Britain, Canada, and Australia have been embracing these students while the United States has not. Helga Watt asked how many students are being discriminated against. Nanda: Not many—about 50. Giles asked if we have a strategy in place to determine whether students are under-enrolled. Nanda said that we are working on it. Andy Divine thought Banner might be helpful to ensure that no one falls through cracks. Nanda said there are gaps, for example, when a student drops a course. Giles asked if Nanda's office would welcome calls if students stop attending classes and might have unofficially dropped by discontinuing their attendance. Nanda said they would and encouraged the senators to drop by the office. Stedman asked if the INS considered continuing enrollment when assessing enrollment status. Nanda noted that INS has not been very sympathetic.
- Giles announced that Don Stedman has a birthday coming up. Well wishes were offered.

Announcements and reminders

- Chancellor's Roundtable—February 28, 2003, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
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Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:25, and President Giles noted that the senators had concluded business early.