

University of Denver
Faculty Senate
Minutes
May 8, 2009
Renaissance Room South

Senators (or proxies) present: Bill Anderson, Rick Barbour, Arthur Best, Rodney Buxton, Victor Castellani, Frederique Chevillot, Bonnie Clark, Judith Fox, Katherine Freeman, Sylvia Hall-Ellis, Michele Hanna, John Hill (Executive Secretary), Jennifer Hoffman, Peggy Keeran, Ramon Kireilis, Brian Kiteley, Maciej Kumosa, Frank Laird, James LaVita, Richard Leaman, Tiffani Lennon, Michael Levine-Clark (President), Chris Malloy, Don McCubbrey, Keith Miller, Viva Moffat, Sarah Morelli, Mia Mulvey, Rahul Nair, Ved Nanda, Kim Newman, Paul Novak, Linda Olson, Scott Phillips, Tom Quinn, Charles Reichardt, Dean Saitta, Nancy Sampson, Paul Sutton, Linda Tate, David Thomson, Gordon von Stroh, Nancy Wadsworth, Kate Willink, and Wilfred Wilms.

Call to Order

Michael Levine-Clark, Faculty Senate President, called the meeting to order at noon and welcomed everyone present.

A motion to approve the minutes from April 10, 2009 was seconded and approved.

Provost's Report

Undergraduate admissions for fall 2009:

- We have 1221 deposits. This compares favorably with deposits at the same time in previous years: 1147 (2008), 1106 (2007), and 1163 (2006).
- We have admitted a little more than 1400 students and will probably receive at least 1300 deposits. However, we expect during summer “the melt” will reduce the entering class size to our target of 1145. This is very good news given the situation we could be facing.
- We have asked all units to prepare contingency plans for a shortfall of 500 students. This is a planning exercise; we do not expect this shortfall to occur.

It is still early to assess graduate admissions for fall 2009. However, we have more deposits than at this time last year.

We have an undergraduate persistence initiative underway. We are currently a little below 90 percent, and we are working to increase this to over 90 percent: we have increased financial aid; and two staff are fielding calls about students under duress and seeking to help them (about 45 students have been referred thus far).

As part of a reorganization, the Office of Institutional Research will report to the Assistant Provost for Planning and Budget. We expect to hire to a couple of analysts and intend to do more analysis and less administration.

We are establishing a data warehouse in an effort to make our data usable and accessible. The Provost, and some Deans and Directors are currently using and evaluating a “Director Dashboard.” This may eventually become more widely available.

Comments on the branding initiative: We are sensitive to concerns about marketing, selling, and branding, discussions and activities. However, we have not told our story well. We are in an extremely competitive environment for students, and our competitors are spending large sums on student recruitment. Hence, we initiated this effort to improve our “branding” and communications about the University.

Responses to questions:

It is very hot in Sturm Hall. This may be some issues with HVAC system. It may also be due to our efforts to lower energy use.

We have been able to help only a few of the students as part of the retention initiative. We make an effort to help each student. However, sometimes we cannot help because they have serious academic issues, or have clearly decided to leave. Jo Calhoun at Student Life leads the retention initiative.

Grade Expectations (Academic Planning)—Brian Kiteley

The most recent distributed Grade Expectations document is only slightly revised; the national trends graph has been updated.

A meeting was held with undergraduate student representatives. The meeting was very cordial. Their principle concern is that the University might establish specific grade distribution requirements. There were also concerns about inconsistent grading practices among faculty and units.

Responses to questions:

There is no intention to publish grade distributions by unit; the faculty would have to decide about this.

While we would keep faculty GPAs secret, the students claim they already know.

We did not compare GPA trends of entering students to GPAs earned at DU.

One student stated that students think the first year is easy, and are surprised by the increased difficulty of years two, three, and four.

Question: some faculty are concerned about the potential impact of grades on persistence.

Answer: we should not be concerned about persistence as we consider grades, rather we should focus on doing it correctly. The Provost stated he would make sure the deans are informed about this matter.

Branding Initiative (Carole Kitchell)

Carole Kitchell made a 45-minute presentation about the branding initiative. Carole and Scott Gilbert are working directly with the Chancellor on this, and welcome comments and feedback. Current efforts are focused on sharing results to date with students, faculty, deans, etc. External sharing will come later. The presentation materials will be shared with Senators.

Senate Reapportionment—Sylvia Hall-Ellis

This is a first reading of the proposed Senate reapportionment; the proposal was distributed by email prior to the meeting. Please send questions and comments to Sylvia.

Nominations for Senate Offices (NCR)—Sylvia Hall-Ellis

Sylvia presented the following list of current candidates for the Senate elections to be held at the next Senate meeting.

Positions to be Elected by the Faculty Senate:

President-elect (1 year term, 2009-10) [President-elect (2009-10), President (2010-12), Past President (2012-13)]

Don McCubbrey (Daniels College of Business)

Faculty Forum Editor (1 year term, 2009-10):

Peggy Kerran (Penrose Library)

Senator At-Large (2 positions, 3 year terms, 2009-12):

Steve Fisher (Penrose Library)

Mike Harris (Sturm College of Law) [May run instead as Sturm College of Law Senator]

Ray Kireilis (Lamont School of Music, AHUM)

Scott T. Leutenegger (Computer Science Department, SOCS)

Justin Marceau (Sturm College of Law)

Nancy Sampson (Daniels College of Business)

Mary Stansbury (Morgridge College of Education)

Robert Stencel (Physics and Astronomy Department, NSM)

Executive Committee At-Large (2 year term, 2009-11):

Frédéric Chevillot (Languages & Literature, AHUM)

Tiffani Lennon (The Women's College)

BOT/Financial Planning Committee Chair (2 year term, 2009-11):

Rick Leaman (Daniels College of Business)

BOT/Student Affairs Representative (1 year, 2nd year of 2 year term):

None (typically the chair of the Student Relations Committee)

BOT/Athletic Affairs – FAR (2 year term, 2009-11):

None

BOT/Faculty Educational Affairs Committee (3 year term, 2009-12):

Frank Laird (Korbel School of International Studies)

Undergraduate Council (1 year, 2nd year of 2 year term):

Nancy Sampson (Daniels College of Business)

Graduate Council (2 year term, 2009-11):

Mary Stansbury (Morgridge College of Education)

Paul Sutton (Geography Department, NSM)

These elections are coordinated by the Faculty Senate:

Academic Standards Committee (1 year, 2nd year of 2 year term):

none

Athletic Affairs Committee (2 year term, 2009-11):

none

Faculty Review Committee (3 year term, 2009-12):

Penrose Library

Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Morgridge College of Education

Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

General Education Vote Count

The NCR Committee counted the votes just prior to the Senate Meeting. Sylvia Hall-Ellis reported the following results:

Units eligible to vote: 33

Units returning ballots: 30

Final Results:

Yes: 202
No: 65
Abstain: 25

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was introduced, seconded, and passed. President Levine-Clark adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

John Hill
Faculty Senate Executive Secretary