

University of Denver
Faculty Senate
Minutes
September 25, 2009
Renaissance Room South

Senators (or proxies) present: Lyndsay Agans, Bill Anderson, Jennifer Campbell, Frederique Chevillot, Paul Colomy, Larry Conyers, Terry Dalton, Sandy Dixon, Jack Donnelly, Judith Fox, Stacey Freedenthal, Katherine Freeman, Chris GauthierDickey, Sylvia Hall-Ellis, John Hill (Executive Secretary), Jennifer Hoffman, Allison Horsley, Laird Hunt, Tim Hurley, Ruth Ann Jebe, Scott Johns, Peggy Keeran, Frank Laird, James LaVita, Richard Leaman, Tiffani Lennon, Michael Levine-Clark (President), Mario Lopez, Sandra Macke, Chris Malloy, Mohammed Matin, Don McCubbrey, Robert Mill, Keith Miller, Annabeth Headrick (proxy for Mia Mulvey), Ved Nanda, Vijaya Narapareddy, Paul Novak, Maik Nwosu, Linda Olson, George Potts, Charles Reichardt, Polina Rikoun, Karen Riley, Nicholas Rockwell, Christy Ann Rowe, Nancy Sampson, Sheila Schroeder, George Straface, Paul Sutton, Jeff Ludwig (proxy for Linda Tate), Matt Taylor, Gordon von Stroh, and Nancy Wadsworth.

Call to Order

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

A motion to approve the minutes from May 29, 2009 was seconded and approved.

Provost's Report

1. **H1N1**—as of September 24th, 83 students have contacted the Health and Counseling Center with probable cases of H1N1 influenza. Dozens more cases expected to come in the future.

Individuals remain contagious for 24 hours after they start feeling well.

1800 doses of the seasonal flu vaccine have been administered in the past two days; however this vaccine is not effective against H1N1 influenza.

We have requested that the faculty grant leniency regarding medical excuses and missed classes.

We do not know how many faculty members have contracted H1N1 flu.

2. **DU Website**—a very different DU website was launched on September 14th. It was developed by two outside consultants: Scott Gilbert and Carol Kitchell. The Chancellor reviewed two possible versions of the website and he selected this version. Yvonne Carlson, Director of Web Technology, is the DU contact person regarding the website. The website

includes rotating photographs of students and student activities. There are still issues regarding the photographs and navigation on the website. We are open to suggestions and have already received ample feedback. We will respond to these suggestions in a timely manner. This was a very speedy process and not particularly participatory. Please report any broken links and other such items to Yvonne Carlson.

3. **Fall Enrollments**—[Secretary's note: all the numbers and information that follow are current as of September 25th; the data will change as we advance further into the quarter].

There were 8400 applications in 2009, 7200 applications in 2008, and 5000 applications in 2007; 69.4 percent of completed 2009 applications were accepted.

1217 students are enrolled in fall classes; the budget allowed for 1145 students.

The 2009 yield is 21 percent versus 25 percent in 2008 and 30 percent in 2007. Yield is the percent of accepted students who actually enroll in courses. We believe the lower yield is due to the increased number of applications filed by each applicant.

The "melt" was 9.5 percent, versus 11 percent in 2008, and 9 percent in 2007. The national melt was not as large as had been expected.

We are working with and increasing funds to units experiencing increased teaching loads due to the higher number of enrolled students.

The entering fall class is 43 percent male and 57 percent female. This is consistent with national trends.

The fall entering class is 18.4 percent domestic minorities, versus 15.5 percent (2008) and 15.4 percent (2007). International students comprise 5.8 percent of the class versus 5.3 percent (2008), and 4.6 percent (2007). Overall, the fall class is made up of 24 percent minorities.

We have maintained the academic quality of the entering class: 45 percent are in the top 10 percent of their high school class; the average SAT score is 1191 (the same as 2008); and the average ACT score is 26.6 versus 26.7 in 2008. Our ability to maintain academic standards was a concern, given the amount of financial aid we are able to offer.

The number of students from Colorado is 43.8 percent, versus 41.8 percent in 2008, and 41.7 percent in 2007.

The number of students declaring business as their major is 32.7 percent, versus 37.6 percent in 2008, and 38.4 percent in 2007.

Actual total undergraduate enrollment is 4873 versus a plan of 4875. The Women's College and University College headcount is up modestly from last year. Overall, the undergraduate headcount is 28 students higher than last year.

Graduate enrollments are on track, but there are some significant ups and downs within units. For example, Daniels MBA is slightly down, but graduate tax programs are higher. Korbel and Social Work are also higher. Overall, the graduate headcount is up by 231 students.

4. **Financial Aid**—The actual tuition discount rate is 32.9 percent, which is also the planned discount rate. The tuition discount for first year students is 43 percent versus a planned rate of 41 percent; the 2008 rate was 37 percent. Many well known institutions have discount rates of about 50 percent. Virtually all of the planned funding has been distributed; this is unusual because late decisions usually prevent allocation of all available funds. We have added \$4.5 million to base funding, and have a \$2 million reserve for graduate students and another \$2 million reserve for undergraduate students. These reserves are for students who experience significant changes in their financial profiles during the year.
5. **Financial Outlook**—Overall, our financial outlook is pretty good; we made our enrollment targets for both graduates and undergraduates. The Chancellor will discuss this further at the Convocation. We spent more money to retain and attract students than we have in the past. The new financial aid commitments will continue in future years. We remain committed to increasing financial aid and the benefits of this will compound in future years. According to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 74 percent of institutions increased financial aid this year. Increasing financial aid remains very important, particularly in view of the downward pressure on tuition increases. This year's tuition increase was 4.9 percent. We expect a smaller increase next year. We are working to generate new revenue streams, e.g., fundraising. Our total reserves are \$107 million which is the equivalent of 118 operating days. These reserves are available without liquidation of assets; this is an improvement from previous years. The FY2010 base budget includes: a \$4.5 million increase in DU funded financial aid (\$2.7 million for undergraduates); \$2.9 million increase in base budget for faculty salaries (\$3.7 million including fringe); and the planned operating surplus is \$17 million (a high amount of this will be returned to the units).
6. **Bonuses**—There is no word on bonuses. This is still being discussed with the Chancellor.
7. **Questions and Answers**

Ved Nanda offered compliments and congratulations to the administration for the financial status of the University, noting the comparison to earlier difficult years. The Provost indicated a willingness to provide far more detailed financial information at a later date. Many Senators indicated interest in having such a briefing.

In response to a question regarding the distribution of students among class levels, the Provost said we are about where we expect to be, but a precise answer is difficult because many students have dual degree status. We will not have information about persistence rates until the end of the third week.

In response to questions about staff hiring, the Provost said we must have enough staff to do the University's work. We have to figure this out over the next year or two; there is not a "sacred" number that must be met.

Role of Senators

Senate President Michael Levine-Clark suggested all Senators read the Senate Constitution, by-laws, and provisions applicable to regular meetings. He stated that some of these appear to be out-dated and that revisions may be in order. Examples include: provisions regarding Senate meeting attendance, proxies, and absences need to be reviewed and clarified; clarifying the voting rights of certain faculty such as clinical professors; and the section regarding the powers and duties of the Senate as a whole.

Agenda Items for the Year

President Levine-Clark briefly reviewed the handout titled "Faculty Senate Agenda Items, 2009-2010." There were no suggestions for additional items to be added to the list.

Elections—Sylvia Hall-Ellis

Sylvia announced there would be a faculty-wide vote to elect a representative to the Faculty Athletic Committee. This will be done by UTS and more information about the voting process will be provided later.

We also need to elect a representative to the Academic Standards Committee. The principle duty of this committee is to review the situations of students who have not made sufficient academic progress. Please send nominations to Sylvia. We will vote to elect a representative at the October 9, 2009 Senate meeting.

Ritchie Center—Ruth Brown

Ruth Brown is Director of Marketing for the Ritchie Center. She explained that membership options have been changed in response to feedback from faculty and staff. In particular there is now access to the Ritchie Center from 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m., and increased options for family memberships. She also provided information brochures to everyone present.

Adjourn to Committees

From 1:00 pm to 1:30 pm the Senate committees met individually.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Prepared and submitted by

John Hill

Faculty Senate Executive Secretary