

University of Denver
Faculty Senate
Minutes
November 20, 2009
Renaissance Room South

Senators (or proxies) present: Lyndsay Agans (proxy ?????), Bill Anderson, Eric Boschmann (Proxy for Paul Sutton), Jennifer Campbell, Victor Castellani (Proxy for Polina Rikoun), Frederique Chevillot, Maclyn Clouse, Larry Conyers, Terry Dalton, Christof Demont-Heinrich (Proxy for Sheila Schroeder), Ralph DiFranco, Rachel Epstein, Judith Fox, Katherine Freeman, Sylvia Hall-Ellis, Annabeth Headrick (Proxy for Mia Mulvey), John Hill (Executive Secretary), Jennifer Hoffman, Allison Horsley, Laird Hunt, Ruth Ann Jebe, Scott Johns, Peggy Keeran (also Proxy for Sandra Macke), Frank Laird, Rick Leaman, Tiffani Lennon, Scott Leutenegger, Michael Levine-Clark (President), Mario Lopez, Jeff Ludwig, Chris Malloy, Don McCubbrey, Keith Miller, Rahul Nair, Vijaya Narapareddy, Paul Novak, Linda Olson, Pallab Paul, George Potts, Martin Quigley, Tom Quinn, Colleen Reed, Charles Reichardt, Nicholas Rockwell, Nancy Sampson, Mary Steefel (Proxy for Tim Hurley), Gordon von Stroh and Kate Willink.

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 October 9, 2009 was seconded and approved.

Provost's Report and Questions

Follow-up on classroom locks discussion from previous Senate meeting: thumb locks cannot be installed on doors with crash bars. These doors will be fitted with an alternative solution by the spring break.

Lecturer contracts: the statement included in the most recent lecture contracts is merely making explicit what we possibly would have needed to do if there were a significant tuition shortfall and a "threaten[ed] state of financial exigency." Were an exigency declared, we would invoke 6.6.1 and the result might be what appears in the paragraph inserted into the lecturer contracts. Here is the language added to all lecturer hire and renewal letters for this year:

"Please note that the term on this offer is contingent upon enrollment levels continuing at their current level through the end of your contract. If enrollment levels drop unexpectedly, the University may cancel courses or reassign courses to tenured faculty, and this could result in eliminating lecturer positions. This could require the University to cancel or end your contract earlier than anticipated and pay you in proportion to time worked."

Under APT 6.6, Termination for Other Reasons, there is 6.6.1: “If it becomes necessary to terminate tenured or non-tenured appointments during their terms due to financial conditions that threaten a state of financial exigency, a plan must be presented to the faculty and Faculty Senate for their approval accompanied by a clear demonstration of the need to terminate positions. The plan should include suggestions of the areas where reductions are needed and for the timing of terminations, but will not identify specific persons to be terminated...”

The plan is then voted on by the professorial series faculty and must pass by 75%. The plan would contain the effective date for termination. Some of this was accomplished with gift aid and endowment release, which we hope to increase in future years.

The higher education environment is still volatile; for an example check the Cal website. We will likely include this same contract provision in next year’s contracts. There is not an intention to fire “willy-nilly.” Deans and faculty would be involved if reductions were to become necessary.

Enrollments are as expected. The discount rate is much higher, but the academic profile for the incoming class was maintained. Some of this was accomplished with gift aid and endowment release which we hope to increase in future years.

Regarding the FY 11 budget: we are in the midst of conversations with the units. We have met with about half of the 47 units and will complete the conversations with all units by early December. The picture is fluid, but at this point we envision the smallest tuition increase since 1987 and there is a placeholder for merit increases. There will be few, if any, strategic investments. The dean’s have been fully involved in the discussions. I will share additional information as it becomes known.

Responses to questions:

We have no intention to cut graduate fellowships. We are trying to be strategic with aid and coordinate among units.

There are no trends in registrations to suggest any problems; stop outs look normal for this time of year.

Higher student profiles correlate with higher persistence and happier faculty. They also aid recruitment of students and faculty. In past years we had a bimodal distribution: those who could get in anywhere they want, and those who couldn’t.

Todd Rinehart provided some information about applications for fall 2010:

- About 40% of applicants are about \$3000 needier than last year; this is about \$1 million in extra aid.
- Applications are about 15% ahead of last year.
- The fall 2009 yield was about 20%; in previous years a low yield was 32-33%. All universities are experiencing these declines in yield.

NCAA Certification (Jo Calhoun and Todd Rinehart)

The NCAA certification review is underway. The review will be conducted by a peer team led by a sitting university president or chancellor and about five additional people. The review comprises ten steps:

Step No. 1

Orientation videoconference and institution begins self-study process
August 17, 2009-October 30, 2009

Step No. 2

Institution develops self-study report
Report Developed August 17, 2009-April 2010

Step No. 3

Self-study report submitted via ACS by April 30, 2010

Step No. 4

NCAA staff Liaison reviews report for preliminary issues
April 30, 2010-June 30, 2010

Step No. 5

Full committee reviews self-study report and approves issues
July 15, 2010-August 15, 2010

Step No. 6

Institution has option to respond to the committee's analysis
Until two weeks prior to the evaluation visit

Step No. 7

Peer-review team conducts campus visit and writes report on Web-based system
September 15, 2010-November 19, 2010

Step No. 8

PRT report sent to the chancellor or president for response on Web-based system
Within two weeks of campus visit

Step No. 9

Institution's response due
December 17, 2010

Step No. 10

Committee deliberates and issues a final decision for all institutions
February 2011

DU has established teams to compile information regarding the NCAA operating principles (Governance and Commitment to Rules Compliance):

- NCAA Operating Principle 1.1- Institutional control, presidential authority and shared responsibilities.
 - The institution must be responsible for the conduct of its athletics program, including the actions of its staff members and representatives of its athletics interests.
- Operating Principle 1.2-Rules compliance.
 - Staff, student-athletes, other individuals and groups representing the institution's athletics interests must comply with NCAA rules and regulations
- Operating Principle 2.1-Academic Standards.
 - Athletics programs must be designed and maintained as a vital component of the institution's educational system and student-athletes are treated consistently with the student body.
- Operating Principle 2.2-Academic Support.
 - Athletics programs must be conducted in a manner designed to protect and enhance the educational experience of student-athletes and emphasize educational objectives
- Operating Principle 3.1-Gender Issues.
 - Institutions must conduct and promote athletics programs that are free from gender bias
- Operating Principle 3.2-Diversity Issues.
 - Institutions must promote respect for and sensitivity to the dignity of every person and to refrain from discrimination
- Operating Principle 3.3-Student-athlete well-being
 - Athletics program must be designed to protect and enhance the physical and educational well-being of student-athletes.

The process is designed to assist every applicant to be “approved” or “approved with conditions.”

An all-faculty meeting will be held on February 5, 2010, and an all campus meeting in mid-March.

Todd and Jo will provide further information in mid-February.

Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work (Cathy Potter)

The Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Research position was split into two positions: Associate Provost for Graduate Studies (Barbara Wilcots) and Associate Provost for Research (Cathy Potter).

The three main activities are:

1. Intellectual property—working with Margaret Henry and Paul Chan to develop a new model.
2. Internal awards—the PROF awards process starts in January 2010. There is \$500K available this year versus \$300k last year.

3. Strategic Planning--pulling together a group to move forward with the work of previous groups. Each dean has been asked to nominate two people to this group. The group will start work in January and work closely with the Dean's Council.

In addition, the Associate Provost for Research works closely with ORSP and is seeking to improve their service orientation towards PIs.

Committee reports

Personnel Committee (Michael Levine Clark)—George Straface has resigned. The committee will meet and elect a new chair. A subcommittee will send recommendations regarding the grievance process to the full committee. Thereafter it will be sent to the full Senate. Faculty Awards announcement will be sent out soon. A Sabbatical Subcommittee has been formed. George Potts has agreed to chair the committee.

Academic Planning (Linda Olson)—we received 35 application for FRF grants; letters will go out next week. We are trying to figure out our mandate and welcome suggestions and comments. We are reviewing the Gen Ed process and will prepare a report for the next round.

Financial Planning (Rick Leaman)—we meet quarterly with the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Business and Financial Affairs. They have been open and forthright about budgets and financial matters. We are looking at how to increase external funding for research.

Student Relations (Paul Novak)—we are looking at methods to include inclusiveness in course evaluations. Some units are doing this now and we are gathering information and suggestions from them. We are also looking for ways to better match undergraduate students to research opportunities.

NCR (Sylvia Hall-Ellis)—We will have an election for a representative to the Athletic Committee. We are reviewing the Senate constitution and bylaws for consistency and alignment with how we actually operate. We expect to make recommendations to the Senate in the spring.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Prepared and submitted by

John Hill
Faculty Senate Executive Secretary