

University of Denver
Faculty Senate
Minutes
May 28, 2010
Renaissance Room South

Senators (or proxies) present: Bill Anderson, Rick Barbour (proxy for Allison Horsley), Jennifer Campbell, Frederique Chevillot, Ralph DiFranco, Sandra Eaton (proxy for Keith Miller), Judith Fox, Katherine Freeman, Silvia Hall-Ellis, John Hill (Secretary), Jennifer Hoffman (also proxy for Robert Stencel), Tim Hurley, Ruth Ann Jebe, Scott Johns, Peggy Keeran, Frank Laird, Rick Leaman, Tiffani Lennon, Scott Leutenegger, Michael Levine-Clark (President), Mario Lopez, Jeff Ludwig, Sandra Macke, Chris Malloy, Mohammad Matin, Don McCubbrey (President-elect), Paul Michalec, Robert Mill, Mia Mulvey, Vijaya Narapareddy, Linda Olson, Pallab Paul, Tom Quinn, Paula Rhodes, Polina Rikoun, Nicholas Rockwell, Christy Ann Rowe, Nancy Sampson, Sheila Schroeder, Paul Sutton, Gordon von Stroh, and Nancy Wadsworth.

Call to Order, Approval of Minutes

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

A motion to approve the minutes from April 16, 2010 was seconded and approved.

Introduction of New Senators

Michael Levine-Clark welcomed new Senators and asked them to introduce themselves to the Senate.

Provost's Report and Questions

The Provost reported the following:

Budget—There have been no changes to the proposed budget. The budget will go to the Board of Trustees this Friday for approval; I do not foresee any problems.

Fall Indicators—The indicators for fall 2010 enrollments are positive. As of today we have 1278 deposits; one year ago today was the high. We are targeting about 1240 for the fall entering class. We are talking with the Deans about faculty capacity; we will monitor the situation to make sure adequate “seats” are available. The impact of economic decline is usually strongest in the second year, so we are doing well.

The only substantial issue is endowment decline. We have fared better than most institutions. In any case this is not an important factor for applications.

Fundraising is lagging. It is a difficult time to raise funds; we raised approximately \$40 million per year during the campaign. We recently received a gift of a land parcel valued at about \$17.5 million. This will be sold and \$10 million will go to establish the Knoebel Center for the Study of Aging; the remaining \$7.5 million will go to HRTM.

Thanks to all of you for your support during the “tense times” of the past two years. It is not an easy time to do what you do. None of us is sure what the “new normal” is, but we will maintain our focus on teaching and creating new knowledge. I do not expect major downward budget revisions in the future, but one never knows. We were deeply distressed that we needed to set the merit increase at 0% and understand the compounding implications of this action. A merit pool of about 2% is planned for next year; the Board of Trustees and the Chancellor know this is still too small. Faculty and staff salaries need to be competitive and higher amounts are planned for the out years. The net impact of the recent staff reductions is a decline of 122 FTEs.

Vacancies and Changes—A search is underway for a Dean at Korbel (this is my ninth Dean search as Provost). The searches are hard on everyone, particularly the units. Other changes: Carol Farnsworth, Vice Chancellor, University Communications; Ken Stafford, Vice Chancellor, Technology Services; and Jesus Trevino, Associate Provost, Center for Multicultural Excellence are leaving their respective positions. I will provide information about the plans for these positions and organizations at a future Senate meeting.

In response to a question, the Provost, Michael Levine Clark, and Don McCubbrey expressed hope for increased faculty participation at the quarterly faculty meetings with the Provost.

Senate Elections (NCR)

The results of the Senate elections are listed below.

Senate representative to FEAC (Board of Trustees Faculty and Educational Affairs Committee)

George Potts, Psychology—elected to a three-year term

Jack Donnelly, Josef Korbel School of International Studies—elected to a one-year term

Senators at-large:

Linda Olson, Pioneer Leadership Program

Matt Taylor, Geography

Faculty Senate Secretary:

John Hill, University College

Editor of Faculty Forum:

No candidate

Proposed Revision to the Faculty Senate Constitution

Michael Levine-Clark presented the following proposed amendment to the Senate Constitution. The proposed change adds a representative from Academic Planning to the Distance Learning Council. (This proposed amendment was distributed by email prior to the Senate meeting.)

V.B.2. The Academic Planning Committee shall normally be composed of no fewer than ten Senators. This committee shall recommend to the Senate policies pertaining to curriculum and quality of instruction; research and scholarship funding, instructional and scholarly technology, and long-range planning to the extent that such issues arise. The following Faculty Senate appointments to university committees shall be made from the Academic Planning Committee (or appointees shall become members of the Academic Planning Committee): for a two-year terms, one representative to the Library Liaison Advisory Committee **and one representative to the Distance Learning Council**; for staggered two-year terms two representatives each to the Undergraduate and the Graduate Councils (one to represent the three faculties and the other to represent the professional schools). The Academic Planning Committee shall meet twice per year with the Associate Provost for Research to review and make recommendations on applications for faculty research funding. The committee shall meet once per quarter jointly with the Executive Committee and the Provost.

A motion to waive the second reading for this proposal was made, seconded and approved.

A motion to approve the amendment was made, seconded and approved.

Honor Code Revision

Michael Levine-Clark initiated the discussion by reminding everyone that this was discussed extensively at the last Senate meeting, and asked whether the Senate wished to go on record in favor of the general direction of the academic portions of the proposed honor code revision.

The Provost added that the intent of the revisions is to achieve a more affirmative awareness and enforcement of the honor code, and that faculty would be expected to uphold the code and report violations. The Honor Code Task Force explicitly rejected imposing more draconian requirements on faculty. The revisions are further intended to help initiate a cultural shift and provide more information to students.

Frederique Chevillot (a member of the Task Force) stated that the hope of the Task Force had been to “go live” in the fall, but that sometime after fall is a more realistic schedule. The Task Force is open to including social conduct aspects as well, but their initial focus has been academic matters.

Tiffani Lennon moved that the Senate approve the general direction of the Task Force and encourage the Task Force to include social conduct. Tiffani withdrew the motions after a brief discussion wherein concerns were expressed that the faculty need guidance on how to handle academic issues; of particularly concern are “lame excuses” and how to treat them fairly and

consistently; and the Senate was not ready to vote on the matter. It was generally agreed (without a vote) the Senate would defer action until the fall, after a revised report from the Task Force is available and reviewed by the Senate.

Agenda for 2010-2011—Don McCubbrey

Don McCubbrey, President-elect, offered the following items for the Senate to ponder over the summer, and consider as Senate agenda items for next year:

- Revision of the APT document and Grievance Policy—The APT document is 10 years old and includes matters such as the three year review, clinical professors, lecturers, etc. Revisions to the Grievance Policy have been ongoing for 2 ½ years. Chip Reichardt and Michael Levine-Clark have been working with Dick Gartrell and Amy King to fit this into existing processes.
- Meeting the challenge of teaching/transforming brighter students—This may involve new responsibilities; we need to challenge these students to reach their full potential.
- How to create a truly cosmopolitan campus.
- Encouraging faculty to use open educational resources and open access journals—There are many things going on in this area; we need to be sure faculty are informed and not an obstacle.
- Encouraging cross-disciplinary collaborations in teaching and research—Perhaps we can establish some pilot projects?
- Combined faculty and staff survey—Improve response rates and usefulness.
- Common definition of shared governance—Establish a common definition and understanding.
- Others?
 - Nancy Sampson suggested reviewing results of the HLC visit for possible Senate actions items.

Don reminded the Senate: “you are in charge, not me;” suggestions are welcome and encouraged; and please ask your constituents for their suggestions. The Senate Executive committee establishes the agenda prior to each Senate and would welcome your input. Don also thanked Michael Levine-Clark for his service, and this led to sustained applause.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Prepared and submitted by

John Hill
Faculty Senate Secretary