

**University of Denver
Faculty Senate
May 30, 2008
Mary Reed Building, Renaissance Room South
Minutes**

Senators (or their Proxy) present: Mario Lopez (proxy for Alvaro Arias), Davor Balzar, Rodney Buxton, Victor Castellani, Bonnie Clark, Ron DeLyser, Jack Donnelly, Sandra Eaton, Margo Espenlaub (Exec. Secretary), James Gilroy, Sylvia Hall-Ellis, Michelle Hanna, John Hill, Michael Karson, Carrie Forbes (proxy for Peggy Keeran), Frank Laird, Rick Leaman, Michael Levine-Clark (President-elect), Seth Masket, Sarah Morelli, Mia Mulvey, Rahul Nair, Kim Newman, Paul Novak, Susan Sadler, Dean Saitta (President), Nancy Sampson, Don Steadman, Mike Daniels (proxy for Paul Sutton), Mathew Taylor, Ramki Thurimella, Gordon Von Stroh, Margaret Whitt, Kate Willink.

Call to Order

Dean Saitta, Faculty Senate President, called the meeting to order at noon and welcomed everyone present. A motion to approve the minutes from May 9, 2008 was seconded and approved.

New Senators in attendance elected by their academic units were introduced:

Provost Report

Regarding faculty concerns with procedure and policy for contracts and risk management (e.g., taking students off campus), faculty should consult with their budget officers who are trained to address these issues.

Enrollment: Undergraduate admission is still good with 1163 deposits (851 last year); 1130 is the enrollment goal.

Sen. Masket asked about going to waitlists and if this affects the quality of diversity among students that enroll. The Provost said the reasons for going to waitlists are not only economics but that students apply to so many schools. Student diversity is at 13% (14% last year) and persistence can be different for this group.

Provost Kvistad concluded his report to the Senate and thanked outgoing Pres. Saitta for his friendship and collegiality over the years.

Vote on Religious Accommodation Policy

Sen. Karson asked to see the new draft of the policy and copies were made available to the Senate by the Provost's office. Only a few words had been added. Karson was concerned that faculty were not encouraged to require students to make up missed assignments. Sen. Eaton said these concerns had been addressed. The Provost said it was discussed in FEAC. The topic was tabled until after the Senate elections.

Senate Elections

Sen. Sadler conducted the election process with clickers. Each senator's vote was tabulated electronically with totals and percentages projected for all to see.

Senators-at-large for a three-year term are Frederique Chevillot (lang. and lit.) and James LaVita (AHSS); for a two-yr. term, Linda Olson (Pioneer Leadership).

Board of Trustees – Faculty and Educational Affairs Committee (FEAC): Michele Hanna, three-yr. term; Frank Laird, two-yr. term.

Graduate Council: Gordon Von Stroh, two-yr. term. Undergraduate Council: Rod Buxton, two-yr. term.

Exec. Secretary: John Hill, two-yr. term. Editor, *Faculty Forum*: Paul Sutton, one-yr. term.

Exec. Committee-at-large: by acclamation, Sarah Morelli and Mathew Taylor, two-year terms.

Religious Accommodation Policy (continued)

The Provost explained that faculty members' discretion was explained to FEAC. It was moved that the Senate vote on this policy. The motion passed unanimously with 34 in favor and one abstention.

Committee Reports

Sen. Sadler said NCR would present a faculty and tenure review in the fall. Academic Planning has addressed grade inflation, textbook costs, and tuition exchange, among other topics. The Provost said the consultant review on tuition exchange was available.

Open Discussion of Priorities for Next Year

Sen. Von Stroh asked the Provost to identify priorities from his office. The Provost said he defers to the Senate to set priorities but suggested the endowment campaign – to become more informed on its substantive points to fund initiatives, institutes, and centers. Sen. Clark said diversity and campus climate issues need to be addressed, particularly around faculty getting tenure and promoting inclusive excellence. Pres. Saitta said administrator evaluation and course evaluations need to be addressed.

Recognition of Executive Committee Members

Each EC member was thanked for their service to the Senate and presented with a gift card. Breaking with tradition, Pres. Saitta also presented a gift card to the Provost. The Senate presented a gift of handcrafted Colorado pottery to Sen. Margaret Whitt (English), who is retiring from DU. Whitt served on the EC and was editor of the *Faculty Forum*.

Sen. Sampson announced the high ranking of student athletes, both teams and individuals. Out of 320 athletes, only one was academically ineligible. After admission standards were analyzed, student athletes were meeting the same academic standards as other students.

The Senate presented a gift to Pres. Saitta, a special, portable chair. Pres. Saitta thanked the Senate.

Transfer of Gavel to New Senate President

Pres. Saitta officially transferred the gavel to Michael Levine-Clark who spoke about the transition into a new academic year. The wooden gavel was hand-crafted by Don Steadman (chemistry) in 2003.

Adjournment

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

Margo Espenlaub, Faculty Senate Executive Secretary