

University of Denver
Faculty Senate
Minutes
September 12, 2008
International House

Senators (or proxies) present: Don Bacon, Rodney Buxton, Victor Castellani, Bonnie Clark, Maclyn Clouse, Sandy Dixon, Judith Fox, Katherine Freeman, Sylvia Hall-Ellis, Michele Hanna, John Hill (Executive Secretary), Jennifer Hoffman, Peggy Keeran, Ramon Kireilis, Brian Kiteley, James La Vita, Peter Laz (proxy for Maciej Kumosa), Gregg Kvistad (Provost), Frank Laird, Rick Leaman, Tiffani Lennon, Michael Levine-Clark (President), Mario Lopez, Chris Malloy, Don McCubbrey, Viva Moffat, Keith Miller, Sarah Morelli, Mila Mulvey, Rahul Nair, Ved Nanda, Kim Newman Paul Novak, Maik Nwosu, Linda Olson, Scott Phillips, Charles Reichardt, Susan Sadler, Nancy Sampson, George Straface, Paul Sutton, Linda Tate, Matt Taylor, Gordon von Stroh, Nancy Wadsworth.

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 May 30, 2008 was seconded and approved.

Provost Report—Provost Greg Kvistad

The Renaissance Room is being “restored.” Planned improvements include gas fireplace, linoleum flooring (this should improve acoustics), functional blinds, and period furniture crafted by Daniel Streng.

The provost provided the following information about the entering class for fall 2008:

- 1154 entering students versus a budget of 1130
- 56% female and 44% male; some coed institutions are as high as 65% female
- GPA 3.66; 3.59 in 2007
- SAT combined 1191; 1176 in 2007
- ACT 26.65; 25.9 in 2007
- 58% are out of state
- 6% are international from 16 different countries
- 16% describe themselves as minority
- 8300 applications; 2000 more than 2007. There is a strong national trend towards increased applications.
- Yield was less than 30%; recent years were 30 to 35%. DU had to dip into its waitlist. This is a national trend: Harvard dipped into its waitlist for the first time in many years.
- 216 transfer students versus a budget of 210
- Daniels has 827 new students versus 748 in 2007

- The law school has 325 new students
- Total enrollment is 11,300 versus 11,022 budgeted.
- The number of high school students will decline next year and continue to decline for seven years.

Faculty salary initiative—Last year there was a special pool of \$1 million in addition to the 3.5% merit pool. For 2008 there is currently a “placeholder” special pool of \$500,000 subject to Board of Trustees approval, and contingent upon 3rd week enrollments. The Deans will discuss distribution of this pool at their next meeting. Provost Kvistad stated that a general distribution of the fund evenly to the entire faculty “would not fly” with the Chancellor or the Trustees. He then asked for suggestions regarding distribution of the fund. Comments and questions from the Senate include:

- Would last year’s recipients be excluded? Many Senators felt all should remain in the eligible pool, since it is merit based and we are seeking to retain the best.
- It was distributed too narrowly last year.
- Add the \$500,000 to the merit pool because others are needy too.
- Concerns were expressed about the lack of transparency in the allocation process within some units. The Provost said he would encourage the Deans to talk with faculty and use a participatory process
- The Provost clarified that the special payment is added to base salary and is not a one-time payment.

President Levine-Clark thanked Provost Kvistad for his report to the Senate.

Student Mental Health Services Update—Jo Calhoun and Michael Maley

We are seeking to tie faculty into the system more, but in a way comfortable for faculty. Jo provided information about both Student Life and the Health and Counseling Center:

- We average about one suicide per year among undergraduate students
- Last winter there were many mental health issues
- There is a high suicide risk for this age group; it is the age where mental health issues emerge
- The Virginia Tech incident has made us more thoughtful about potential threats to the campus community
- Patti Helton has formed and chairs a task force to develop better methods to help faculty. Daniel McIntosh (Psychology) and Stacy Freedenthal (Social Work) are on the task force.
- Both emergency and non-emergency services are available to students.
- Anything perceived by faculty as a threat to the community or bizarre behavior should be reported. Faculty who report students to the Center will not get the students into trouble. Faculty members who report concerns will not be identified to students, unless the faculty member grants permission to do so.
- Counseling Center cannot tell Student Life about confidential issues, so concerns should be reported to both organizations.

- If a threat or “bizarre” behavior is reported, Student Life will look for patterns, and perform a threat evaluation. It is “tough” to take action with a single incident, so reporting incidents is very important. The reporting source will not be disclosed without permission.
- There are about 20 televisions installed on campus. These are configured to provide emergency notification.
- The cell phone notification system is still the best option; please sign up for it if you have not done so already.

Provost Kvistad suggested the Senate should view the “Active Shooter” video at its next meeting.

Michael Maley (staff Psychologist at the Health and Counseling Center) reported the following:

- Located on the 3rd floor of the Ritchie Center.
- Counseling available Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, and 7:30 am to 1:00 pm on Saturdays.
- A counselor is on call 24/7 and can be reached at 1-3000 by asking for “Counselor-on-Call.”
- Report emergencies at 1-3000
- Report non-emergencies at 1-2205
- Concerns can also be reported at <http://www.du.edu/studentlife/concern/>
- Counseling referrals can be made at: <http://www.du.edu/duhealth/>
- Counseling is offered for individuals, groups, and couples
- Main issues are depression and suicide attempts; other events are likely to follow suicide events. These are especially true of diversity communities.
- Alcohol and eating disorders are also common problems.
- Services are also available to faculty and staff.

Senate Issues for 2008-2009—(Michael Levine-Clark)

President Levine-Clark presented and discussed “Faculty Senate Agenda Items, 2008-2009” (see appendix A). Don McCubbrey elaborated about the Textbook Law item, and suggested the Senate approve a resolution calling for voluntary compliance with the law which becomes effective June 1, 2009; the law, as written applies only to public colleges and universities.

There were no suggestions to delete any of the agenda items. Matt Taylor suggested adding Faculty Life and Staff Life to the agenda item list.

Research Website Update—Don McCubbrey

Sandy Eaton will continue to support the development of the website with NSM serving as a pilot site. Once it is working properly, the site will be expanded to include all departments. A key objective is to facilitate interdisciplinary research. Suggestions, comments and questions should be directed to Don McCubbrey.

New Business

There was no new business.

Announcements

President Levine-Clark reminded the Senate about:

- New Faculty Luncheon, September 19, 2008, Driscoll Ballroom
- Convocation, September 26, 2008, Ritchie Center
- Chancellor's Roundtable, November 14, 2008, Gottesfeld Room

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was introduced, seconded, and passed. President Levine-Clark adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m. and instructed Senate committees to meet.

Respectfully submitted by

John Hill, Faculty Senate Executive Secretary

Appendix A

Faculty Senate Agenda Items, 2008-2009

September 5, 2008

Below is a list of issues that the Senate will cover this academic year. Some are major and ongoing while others are relatively minor.

- Administrator Evaluations. The Personnel and Executive Committees will work with the Office of Assessment to develop a better process. Some issues to consider are the overall quality and relevancy of the questions; the feasibility of developing a two-tier system whereby faculty members evaluate chairs and deans on one set of questions and upper administration on another; concerns about confidentiality; and increasing faculty participation.
- Grade Inflation/Grade Expectations. The Academic Planning Committee began to look at this issue last year. Concerns include the extremely high grade distributions for first year seminars and whether it's an issue of high grades or expectation of high grades. The committee will work with the Office of Assessment and the Registrar to gather information.
- Promotion & Tenure.
 - With the changing emphases on public good, interdisciplinarity, and publication in non-traditional venues, it might be worthwhile to reconsider the APT document. The Personnel Committee will work on this.
 - Related to this, we may need a better articulated process for promotion of clinical faculty. The Personnel Committee will decide whether this is a university or divisional issue.
- Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work Report. A subcommittee of Academic Planning and Personnel Committee members will examine this report for any faculty-wide issues. This should be considered in relation to the Teaching Task Force Report.
- Research Website. This is related to the RSCW Report, but is just one way of addressing some of the issues raised in that document. Sandy Eaton and Don McCubbrey have been working on ways of better communicating about DU research with the Office of Graduate Studies and Research and the Office of Communication. This process will continue this year.
- Faculty Grievance Policy. This has now gone through multiple revisions. It will return to the Personnel Committee and will also go to the Faculty Review Committee.
- Textbook Law. The Senate will examine the new textbook transparency law signed by Governor Ritter on April 8. This law, similar to others nationally, places several requirements on textbook publishers trying to have their books adopted by public institutions in Colorado. Though it does not apply to private institutions, DU may want to voluntarily comply. Student Relations will work on this.
- Faculty Review Committee. Not all divisions have full membership: Penrose and GSPP rotate every three years, and SECS appears to have no regular representation. Michael Levine-Clark will meet with Kathy Ohman, chair of the committee, on behalf of the Senate to discuss possible changes to this structure.
- Senate Membership. The Senate constitution calls for periodic review and reapportionment of Senate representation as departments are added and change size. Other than the addition of a Senator for the Writing Program last year, there has been no adjustment since about 2001. The Nominations, Credentials, and Rules Committee will look into this.
- IDEA Lunch. The Executive Committee will plan a reprise of this successful event from last year.