

**Meeting of the Faculty Senate  
May 3, 2002**

Presiding: Susan Sadler, President

Ex officio: Provost Bob Coombe

Guests:

John Lowe, Chair FEAC, Board of Trustees,

Jennifer Cornish, Counseling & Behavioral Health

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m.; the minutes of April 5th meeting were approved.

Jennifer Cornish-Counseling & Behavioral Health

Sadler introduced Jenny Cornish and Rick Ginsberg, Director of Department of Wellness. Cornish presented the Senate with a report on the role and activities of the Counseling & Behavioral Health Center, outlining the mission, history, services, and staff of the Center. She also gave statistics, explained of policies and referrals, and discussed current issues in college/university counseling centers, along with students' developmental issues. Locations and Contact information, along with a complete listing of services, fees, and external links, are available at the Center's web site <http://www.du.edu/counseling>.

Cornish then introduced Rick Ginsberg, who discussed the referrals section of the web page. He pointed out that usage of counseling services by students is up nationally. Cornish referred senators to a recently published longitudinal study of the problem:

Cornish, J. A. E; Riva, M. T.; Henderson, M. C.; Kominars, K. D.; & McIntosh, S. (2000). Perceived Distress in University Counseling Center Clients across a Six-Year Period. *Journal of College Student Development*, 41(1), January/February.

John Holcomb (DCB, Legal Studies and Values) referred to another article, recently published in the New York Times that discussed the issue of confidentiality. He asked to what extent counseling staff feel "hamstrung" by such concerns. Cornish responded that it is difficult to attain a balance between parental concerns and the right of students to privacy. According to Colorado State Law, counseling staff cannot divulge confidential information obtained from students, despite concerns about safety and security on campus. To do so would be to violate the trust between psychologist and patient. Faculty, however, are not bound in this way, and are free to serve as intermediaries between individual students and their families. Provost Coombe urged faculty to talk to students before they contact family members or security personnel. FERPA is not an issue in these cases, as it applies only to student records. The age of the students determines their legal rights and dictates the responsibilities of the university to talk to parents. Wayne Anderson (Philosophy) added to the list of resources available on campus, specifically referring to the work of Karen Kitchener (College of Education, Counseling Psychology) and Susan Harter (Psychology). Sadler asked to what extent the center made an effort to reach out to individual students. Cornish replied that outreach is not the primary mission of the Counseling Center. Ginsberg, however, listed several activities of his office that

were designed to connect with students. These included: having counselors in the residence halls, offering presentations on topics like date rape, etc., and participating in SOAR. He then passed out a brochure on the Department of Wellness, explaining that the department's mission is to provide healthcare services and programs. Its approach is holistic, encompassing emotional, psychological, sociological, communication-related intellectual, spiritual aspects of an individual's health. Special features include a living and learning community based on wellness, and an undergraduate minor in wellness. He encouraged faculty to participate in wellness activities, listing activities like "Lunch & Learn" monthly seminars. He offered to come to classes, thus integrating wellness into the curriculum of the academic units. SEARCH, a group comprised of undergraduates providing peer outreach, go out into the campus community. Next year the department hopes to offer paraprofessional peer listeners. According to Ginsberg, the URDU social norms campaign has been quite successful. Bob Granville (Sociology) has received federal research funding to analyze URDU data over the past 3-years. The Department of Wellness is located on the 3rd floor of the Ritchie Center. It contains a small lending library.

#### President's Report

Sadler indicated that the deadline for administrator evaluations was last Friday (4/26/02). Forms have been sent to the Assessment Office. Results should be available in late May or early June. Of 485 valuations, 196 responses were received, which constitutes a 40% return. Sadler finds this encouraging. Historically returns on such evaluations have ranged from 20-52%.

She also updated the Senate on the search for a Vice-Provost for Graduate Studies and Research. A nominating committee has been appointed to nominate an internal candidate for the position. The committee is a public working group comprised of 2 faculty members out of a group of 6. Members include: Jim Fogelman, Greg Kvistad, Mike Bloom, Ann Dobbins, Buck Sanford, and Sallye McKee. The interim V-P will serve for 2-years, while the position is allowed to "evolve."

#### Update on University Initiatives

In a follow-up to the Faculty Roundtable with the Chancellor, Sadler asked Stephen Perkinson (Art & Art History; Chair, Personnel Committee) and Cathy Reed (Psychology) to report on the controversial changes at the Fisher Early Learning Center. According to Perkinson, parents have had little opportunity for input on the proposed changes in rates and schedules. Opening and closing times are slated to be shortened, while the vacation schedule is being dramatically extended to include 3 weeks and 10 planning days. Rates are due to change on a sliding scale from 3.5-30% that actively discourages part-time participation. Parental concerns were expressed in a letter to the Chancellor and Provost, resulted in a parents' meeting. But Fisher's response was minimal. According to Perkinson, the changes are driven (once again) by a mandate for excellence without appropriate allocation of resources. Provost Coombe explained that Fisher had proposed the changes some months ago, that it was assumed there would be some consultation with parents. His interpretation of the parents' meeting was different. Coombe feels that it is unfair to charge the administration with not providing resources. The changes are driven by an effort to retain quality staff and avoid the turnover seen in

most childcare centers. It is a deliberate effort to move toward a "School model" rather than a "Day care" model. The issue is: "What is the fundamental mission of the Fisher Center?" Affordable day care for staff, or a high-end early educational facility? The question is how to blend the two and provide benefits for all. According to the Provost, the matter is not closed, but is still open for discussion. Reed disagreed, indicated that the question is primarily one of funding. Sadler asked if the establishment of a formal parent advisory group would help resolve this and like situations. Perkinson indicated that there is the possibility of selection bias in the parents chosen for consultation. Chip Reichardt (Psychology) spoke on behalf of the Fisher Center, saying that it is a world-class facility, and that worry about changes always breeds complaint. In his view, the changes are needed to ensure adequate salaries for highly qualified Center staff, 90% of whom hold BA's or MA's. Sadler referred the matter to the Personnel Committee.

The next item in the President's report was an update on the University Planning Advisory Committee's (UPAC) vision, values, mission and goals study. Working task forces will visit each goal, and make recommendations to the Provost. Coombe indicated that May 7 is the due date for reports from the UPAC committees. He characterized this process as a "first cut" iterative process that would be folded into unit-level planning functions in the fall. A report will go out to the entire university community in September that will detail the parameters of the budget, sum up last year, and report on the goals for the coming year. Leon Giles asked if this report is intended to replace the long-overdue constitutionally mandated budget communication from Craig Woody's office. Coombe indicated that budgetary information would be included in the upcoming report.

Sadler then discussed the Comparative Institutions study initiated by the Senate, indicating that the Senate has agreed to work with the Provost's Office in compiling the information at divisional, departmental, and programmatic levels.

She also reported on the Marsico Initiative, asking the Provost for a timetable. Coombe indicated that "signs are good," though there is as yet no firm results. The initial ad hoc working group on this initiative was comprised largely of faculty charged with generating ideas for improvement of undergraduate education in the arts and sciences. Concerns still exist over the formulation of the group, and the degree of representation it reflected. Sadler indicated that she hoped a more open process would be used in the future. Recommendations from the working group include: smaller class size, more intensive writing and mathematics; a larger experiential component, and broader opportunities for undergraduate scholarship and research. One of the aims of the initiative is to encourage the fluid movement of 20-25% of DU's best students into masters programs. Barbara Wilcots, who served on the ad hoc working group, asked how decisions regarding the recommendations would be made. Coombe indicated that the proposal will be sent to the faculty of AHSS, and that due processes for curricular change will be followed. Wilcots asked if people not involved in the working group were free to submit ideas. Coombe indicated that there might be other ideas that are generated once the resources are in place to stimulate them. Perkinson asked about class size as a quality indicator. The Provost indicated that the university has data on classes of varying sizes; the majority of DU classes have less than 20 students. From the student perspective, however, a larger proportion of credit hours are met in larger classes. Should this be adjusted? Coombe suggested that shifts in faculty time might make this possible. To

achieve the goal of having a student/faculty ratio of 10/1, small classes should be emphasized at the front end.

#### Senate Elections-Altoun Barbour for NCR

Because Dennis Barrett was out, Barbour officiated over election business, announcing the results of elections from the departments. He announced candidates for vacant positions and called for additional nominations from the floor.

- For the election of Senators at large, there are 2 positions and 2 candidates: Dean Saitta, Nancy Sampson. Arthur Best (Law) moved that the candidates be elected by acclamation. Ved Nanda (Law) seconded. The vote was unanimous.
- Nominations for Faculty Athletics Committee: There is currently one candidate: Tom Paskus; Other nominations are due by May 8.
- Nominations for Senate Offices. Barbour called for nominees for the following offices, explaining nominations can only be accepted with the consent of the nominee.
  1. Executive Secretary, Barbara Wilcots
  2. Faculty Forum Editor, Susan Sadler has offered to coordinate, although she is hoping for a fresh perspective from a junior faculty member.
  3. Member at large to Executive Committee, Open
  4. Representative tot the Board of Trustees (BOT) FEAC, Open
  5. Representative to the Graduate Council, Open
  6. Representative to the Undergraduate Council, Open
  7. Three more appointed positions:
    - Student Affairs Committee representative to BOT (1)
    - Representative to the Intellectual Property Committee (2)
- Standing committees were charged with electing chairs at the conclusion of the meeting.
- A Notice of Motion was given for a Constitutional Amendment updating references to the APT document. It was published on the back of the Meeting Agenda handout. These changes are procedural, not substantive. They will simply result in new item numbers in the APT document. Elections will be held May 24, 2002.

#### Call for continuing or new business

Sadler called for New or Continuing Business. Hearing none...

Nanda moved that Senate adjourn. Best seconded.

Senate adjourned at 1:25 p.m., until the election meeting on May 24, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah S. Grealy, Executive Secretary  
May 24, 2002.

