

University of Denver
Faculty Senate
Minutes
September 27, 2013
Renaissance Room

Senators (or proxies) present: Annaliese Amschler Andrews, Shimelis Assefa, Rick Barbour (proxy for Anne Penner), Jenny Bowers, Tess Bruce, Mercedes Calbi, Victor Castellani, Claude d'Estree, Jack Donnelly, Graham Foust, Jim Gilroy, Josh Hanan, Annabeth Headrick, John Hill, Tim Hurley (self), Tim Hurley (proxy for Scott Johns), Van Johnston, Arthur Jones, Ray Kireilis, Michelle Kruse-Crocker, Rick Leaman, Tiffani Lennon, Scott Leutenegger, Jeffrey Lin, Don McCubbrey, Erin Meyer, David Mindock, Julianne Mitchell, Michele Morrison, Vi Narapareddy, Linda Olson, Pallab Paul, Scott Pegan, Rebecca Powell, Martin Quigley, Tom Quinn, Allegra Reiber, Charles Reichardt, Naomi Reshotko, Paula Rhodes, Nick Rockwell (proxy for Rafael Rossotto Ioris), Dean Saitta, Nancy Sampson, Jamie Shapiro, Geoff Stacks, Mary Steefel, Billy Stratton, Paul Sutton, Matthew Taylor, Ron Throupe, Robert Urquhart, Nancy Wadsworth (proxy for Jing Sun), Courtney Welton-Mitchell, and Melanie Witt.

Call to Order, Approval of Minutes

Scott Leutenegger, Senate President, called the meeting to order at noon.

A motion to approve the minutes from the May 24, 2013 Senate meeting was seconded and approved.

Provost's Report—Gregg Kvistad

I want to welcome all of you to a new year of Faculty Senate. The Senate Executive Committee asked me to provide an update on several items.

The enrollment picture is very different and very much improved from last year at this time. We budgeted for 1375 first-time first-year undergraduates; we estimate we will have 1410 at the end of the fall term. We have 5200 total undergraduates, a few more than budgeted.

The graduate enrollment picture is different. We have some units struggling to achieve enrollment budgets. Daniels and Sturm are the hardest hit. This situation is not unique to DU nor is it unexpected because graduate programs tend to be more subject to business cycles. For example, law school applications are down nationwide by about 50 percent. DCB is seeing more interest in its Master's degrees than in the MBA. The financial impact of enrollment shortfalls is more significant in the graduate schools because the discount rates tend to be less than 10 percent.

Overall the budget situation is in good shape. It is not excellent, but it is much better than last year.

The budget includes 2 percent for merit increases; 1.5 percent of this will go to the unit heads, the remaining 0.5 percent will be held at the provost level and unit heads can make additional merit requests from these funds. This is intended to address exceptional performance and equity issues. There is also a \$1.5 million one-time bonus pool for staff.

The budget includes \$1.5 million for “enhanced” faculty salaries. We allocated \$1.5 million for this last year, and intend to add an additional \$1 million for the next three years after this year. This is a total of \$6 million over five years.

We do not have a mascot, and I am not sure what we will do next. The summer effort basically stalemated.

Regarding dean searches: We have five vacancies: DCB, AHSS, Engineering, Morgridge, and University College. This situation is not uncommon. The average dean’s tenure nation-wide is 3½ years; the average at DU is eight years. We will conduct three searches this year: DCB, AHSS, and Engineering. The DCB search committee is formed and headed by Lynn Gangone. The AHSS and Engineering search committees are being formed. There is a lot of dean searches to conduct at one time, so decisions on the remaining dean searches will be deferred for a year.

Responses to Questions:

We hire search firms in situations where there is a market for deans, e.g., business, law. Disciplines such as sciences and arts do not have particularly strong markets for deans. Search firms are expensive, but we want to get the very best person we can.

I do not know the cost of the mascot effort, but I will find out and let you know.

Senate Purpose and AY 2014 Goals—Scott Leutenegger

Most of the Senate’s work is accomplished by committees. The committees need to establish their AY 2014 goals. We will spend the last half of today’s meeting on Senate Committee work.

To emphasize and reinforce the importance of Senate Committee work we have indicated Senate Committee membership on the sign-in sheet. If you have questions about Committee assignments, please ask Tiffani Lennon.

Bereavement Policy—University Chaplain Gary Bower

The bereavement policy is proactive. We wanted to have something in place for students. It is based on the Purdue and Duke policies, but “massaged” specifically for DU. It is similar to the policy for employees. It allows students three days for in-state situations and five days for out-of-state situations. There are also provisions for accommodations for make-up work, incompletes, etc. The policy applies to both graduate and undergraduate students.

The Senate, by a voice vote, voted unanimously to “endorse” the bereavement policy.

Elections—Tiffani Lennon

The Senate elected Vijaya (Vi) Narapareddy, and Dean Saitta to serve as at-large representatives to the Senate Executive Committee.

Prior to voting, each of the four candidate made a one-minute presentation to the Senate.

Learning Management System Update—Julanna Gilbert, Executive Director, Office of Teaching and Learning

DU has used Blackboard as its Learning Management System since 2000. Usage has grown tremendously and it is now a critical system for teaching and learning. Technology and the internet have advanced to a point where there are many more tools and applications that can enhance teaching and learning in more effective and efficient ways than Blackboard currently does. Difficult to resolve technical issues have also motivated the exploration of other systems.

Last spring a group of faculty and technical staff members from across campus began meeting to look at other systems. After their review, representatives from Pearson/e-College, Canvas, LoudCloud and Blackboard were invited to present separately to the group. Of these, Canvas was the most highly rated.

The decision to select a new LMS is significant and needs as much input from faculty, staff and students as possible. Four information sessions have been organized at which Canvas and Blackboard will be compared. We encourage faculty, staff and students to attend these sessions.

Date, Time	Location	Session Focus
Fri, Oct. 4, 3-4:30 p.m.	Academic Commons-290	General
Thu, Oct. 17, 12-1:30 p.m.	Academic Commons- 290	General
Fri, Oct. 18, 3-4:30 p.m.	Olin Hall-105	NSM/SECS disciplines
Fri, Oct. 25, 3-4:30 p.m.	Academic Commons- 290	AHSS disciplines

More information is available at : <http://otl.du.edu/blog/upcoming-canvas-and-blackboard-information-sessions-scheduled/>

Interdisciplinary Research Incubator for the Study of (In)Equality (IRISE)—Tom Romero, Assistant Provost for IE Research & Curriculum Initiatives

IRISE is one of the Renew DU initiatives. IRISE aims to help faculty and students in the development of cutting edge research on equity and inequality with a central focus on interdisciplinary topics/issues related to race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation,

disability, veteran status and religion. We have established an Advisory Board. We are actively seeking proposals for research and creative work. We will fund three two-year fellowships during the second and third years of the program. We will be conducting a survey to gather suggestions from the campus community; we have already identified about 80 faculty who have research interests relevant to IRISE.

For further information see: <http://www.du.edu/cme/incubator.html>

APT Status—Chip Reichardt and Scott Leutenegger

We are intending to conduct a full faculty vote and submit the revised APT document to the Board of Trustees by the end of the AY.

In addition to clerical changes to clarify language and remove inconsistencies, the revised document will likely propose a change from “lecturer” to “Teaching Professor,” and include the potential for multi-year contracts for non-tenure track faculty (not adjuncts). This revision will not address post-tenure review.

We have received comments from many faculty, and from deans, the Provost’s office, HR, and Legal Counsel. We continue to seek comments from faculty and meet with individual units.

Prior to a full faculty vote, the draft will be reviewed by the Personnel Committee, the Senate Executive Committee, and the full Senate.

Self-Introduction of Senators

Senators introduced themselves by stating their names, departments, and their Senate Committee.

Committee Meetings

The Senate broke into individual meetings of the Senate Committees: Academic Planning, Financial Planning, Nominations, Credentials & Rules, Personnel, and Student Relations.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Prepared and submitted by

John Hill
Faculty Senate Secretary