

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER
Faculty Senate
April 8, 2005
Mary Reed Building, Renaissance Room South

Senators (or their proxy) present: Bill Anderson, Elizabeth Anderson, Davor Balzar, Dennis Barrett, David Christophel, Corey Ciocchetti, Lisa Conant, Jenny Cornish, Nick Cutforth, Ron DeLyser, Fran Dickson, Andy Divine, Margo Espenlaub, Ronald Farina, Jim Gilroy, Deborah Grealy, Jim Hagler, Shannen Hill, Don Hughes, Beth Karlsgodt, Walter LaMendola, Corinne Lengsfeld, Michael Levine-Clark, David Longbrake, Don McCubbrey, Ved Nanda, Cathryn Potter, Charles Reichardt, Catherine Sailer, Dean Saitta, Roger Salters, Paula Sperry, John Tripp, Gordon Von Stroh, Tim Weaver, Todd Wells, Margaret Whitt, and Jason Wyrick

Call to order

Cathryn Potter, Faculty Senate President, called the meeting to order at noon and welcomed everyone present. The minutes for March 11, 2005 were approved with the caveat that Senators may contact Jenny Cornish (jcornish@du.edu) for any changes. President Potter stated that Provost Robert Coombe is currently attending the Frozen Four (NCAA National Hockey Championship Games) so will be absent from the meeting today.

University College Undergraduate Degree Completion Program (Dean James R. Davis)

University College Dean Jim Davis began his presentation by introducing himself and speaking about his 35 year career at the University of Denver (DU). He was charged as Dean of the University College with stabilizing enrollments and has been successful in that regard. Last April, a review committee recommended establishing an undergraduate completion program. The proposal presented today is the result of collaboration among deans and many faculty members, including many Senators. Dean Davis discussed five key issues:

- The audience for the program will be comprised of adult learners with at least three years experience and 40 hours of undergraduate credits. This audience is expected to be different from the traditional residential undergraduate student and to have some overlap with the Women's College students.
- The curricula will be distinguished from the traditional undergraduate and Women's College, will stress a liberal arts foundation, and will involve five interdisciplinary concentrations.
- Distance learning has progressed over the last decade, and University College is pursuing partnerships with Rocky Mountain Public Broadcasting System and E-College. Dean Davis pointed out that University College has already acquired considerable experience in this area.
- Enrollment and finance are important, but the purpose of this new program is not just to produce revenue, but to provide access, public good, and a viable choice for adult learners in the Denver metropolitan area. The program is expected to start with 200 students in September 2006 and add about 50 students/year thereafter.

Dean Davis then entertained questions from the Senators. In response to a discussion about calling the program by a different name (e.g., Bachelor of Liberal Arts or Bachelor of Professional Studies), he stated his opinion that the program as structured meets requirements for the B.A. degree. Graduates of the program could be eligible for graduate training in some areas (e.g., M.B.A.) but not others (e.g., research science). Dean Davis argued that almost anything can be taught on line these days (including studio art) and pointed out that courses could be migrated to traditional areas of the University (e.g., the College currently partners with Geography). He reassured Senators that the curricula would be sent to appropriate units for endorsement, but conceded that the interdisciplinary approach could make such endorsements difficult. He asked Senators to contact him at jdavis@du.edu for further questions and discussion. President Potter pointed out that the proposal needs to be approved by Undergraduate Council, FEAC, and the Board of Trustees.

Plagiarism Task Force: Revised Draft for Second Reading and Vote (Senator Margaret Whitt)

Senator Whitt reported that following the first reading of this document, the Plagiarism Committee received suggestions from 20 faculty members that were distilled into 14 points and incorporated into the revised document, although this is still a work in progress. The document has been approved by the Provost, the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies, Citizenship and Community Standards, and Paul Chan, the University Counsel. Although the document is designed mainly for undergraduate students, it can be used for graduate students as well. The Senators asked about implementation issues (e.g., if the document can be presented to students during orientation, if the outcomes can be assessed, and if it has established cross-cultural validity). President Potter promised to work with the Provost on an implementation plan. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed to accept these guidelines.

Branding Update (Senators David Christophel and Cathryn Potter)

Senators Christophel and Potter described their personal reactions to sitting in on the 10 Branding task groups. Overall, they both felt the initiative appeared to have less emphasis on academic excellence than they would have expected. In addition, a lack of future-focused thinking was noted. The Senators discussed Branding and concluded that it could end up being just a marketing tool unless faculty members truly become involved. Furthermore, UPAC involvement is essential. Senators were directed to the Branding website (currently still under construction) for further information: www.portfolio.du.edu/dubranding.

Administrative Evaluations (President Cathryn Potter)

President Potter informed the Senators that the process of administrator evaluations will begin next week. There is an urgent need to increase the response rate (35% response rate in the past with paper evaluations; 25% rate last year with on-line evaluations). The web site will be ready during the week of April 11 and should be very easy to negotiate (after entering Web Central) thanks to the efforts of University Technology Services. President Potter and Provost Coombe will send several emails describing the process and encouraging faculty members to participate. The website will close on May 2 so the data can be analyzed and forwarded to administrators, including the Provost and Chancellor. After a discussion around the current procedure to exclude data from departments with three responses or less, a motion was made and seconded to forward all data (no matter how low the numbers of faculty members responding) to all administrators. This motion was passed with one opposed and four abstention votes. Pres. Potter then asked the Senators to brainstorm ways to encourage faculty participation. Various strategies were discussed including using guilt, drawing parallels to student evaluations, increasing communication (e.g., telephone calls to colleagues), focusing on the evaluations as a form of faculty empowerment, describing the potential practical applications of the evaluations, and instigating a reward system. Pres. Potter asked Senators to inform their colleagues that both the Chancellor and the Provost take these evaluations seriously, but cannot really use them to make changes if the response rate is not high enough.

Professional Research Opportunities for Faculty (PROF) Awards (University PROF Review Members)

President Potter asked members of the University PROF Review Committee to stand and be recognized for their efforts this year reading 48 proposals and funding 37 of them for a total \$301,000.00. The following awards were announced:

- Natural Sciences and Math: Seven of 13 proposals were funded including those submitted by Susan Sadler, Matthew Taylor, Joe Angeleson and Robert Dores, David Christophel, Keith Miller, Steven Short, and Christina Coughlan.
- Social Sciences: Six of nine proposals were funded including those submitted by Lisa Conant, Jennifer Reich, Catherine Reed, Mary Claire Morr, Trace Reddell, and Renee Botta.
- School of Engineering and Computer Science: One of four proposals was funded for Scott Leutenegger.
- Graduate School of International Studies: Two of four proposals were funded included those submitted by Rachel Epstein and Micheline Ishay.
- Arts and Humanities: Eight of 12 proposals were funded including those submitted by Annette Stott, Ari Kelman, Chris Malloy, Don Hughes, Carol Helstosky, Antonia Banducci, Leah Garrett, and Susan Schulten.

- Graduate School of Social Work: One proposal submitted by Julie Haddow was funded.
- College of Education: One proposal of three submitted was funded for Bruce Uhumacher.
- Daniels College of Education: One proposal of two submitted was funded for Bahman Ebrahimi and Sandra Young.

The University PROF Review Members agreed that all the proposals submitted were excellent, indicated their wish that more could have been funded, and expressed their appreciation to the Provost for instigating this important initiative.

Nominations, Credentials and Rules (NCR) update

Senator Dennis Barrett, Chair of the NCR Committee, was out of town today, but President Potter urged the Senators to watch for his next electronic mail message about upcoming Senate elections.

New Business for Referral to Committee

Senator Gordon VonStroh asked the Senators to consider acting as Marshalls for graduation (undergraduate and/or graduate) and to email him at gvonstro@du.edu if they are willing to volunteer for this. Several Senators spoke about how fun it has been for them to act as Marshalls since doing so provides more opportunities to talk with students.

Adjournment

President Potter adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m. and thanked everyone for their participation today.

Respectfully submitted by:

Trinka Crosby and Jenny Cornish