

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER
Faculty Senate
May 26, 2006
Mary Reed Building, Renaissance Room South
Minutes

Senators (or their Proxy) present: Bill Anderson, Alvaro Arias, Davor Balzar, Dennis Barrett, David Christophel, Bonnie Clark, Joel Cohen, Jenny Cornish, David Cox, Davy Davis, Irvin Jones for Ron DeLyser, Andy Divine, Sandra Lee Dixon, Ronald Fariña, James Gilroy, Deb Grealy, Michele Hanna, John Hill, Mike Keables, Brian Kiteley, Maciej Kumosa, Gregg Kvistad, Walter LaMendola, Michael Levine-Clark, Seth Masket, Don McCubbrey, Charles Reichardt, Dean Saitta, Jack Sheinbaum, Javier Torre, Tim Weaver, Todd Wells, Margaret Whitt, and Yavuz Yasar

Call to order

President Potter called the meeting to order at noon and welcomed everyone present. David Cox moved to approve the minutes from April 7, 2006, with the usual caveat that senators contact Cornish with necessary edits (jcornish@du.edu or x14737). This motion was seconded by Walter LaMendola and **passed unanimously**.

Introduction of New Senators

Incoming Senators were introduced: Victor Castellani (Languages and Literature), Rick Barbour (Theatre), Michael Karson (Graduate School of Professional Psychology), Frank Laird (Graduate School of International Studies), Robert Mill (Daniels College of Business), and Paul Novak (University College).

Committee Reports

- **Academic Planning**

David Christophel, Chair, reported on the four main accomplishments of the Academic Planning Committee: 1) Continued monitoring and dispersal of the Faculty Research Funds by a subcommittee chaired by Levine-Clark, and a motion passed by the Senate to have 10% of the money retained in an “emergency fund” from which dispersals up to \$500.00 could be considered each month based on informal applications, 2) Development of a faculty advisory group for admissions that has already had a significant role in revising the Hyde interviews and has come to be seen as integral by Tom Willoughby, 3) Development of a subcommittee regarding the branding initiative as requested by Carol Farnsworth, Vice Chancellor for Communications and Marketing, and 4) Participation in the ongoing saga of the Teaching Task Force, giving considerable input to the Executive Committee and to the Senate. Christophel concluded his report by stating that chairing Academic Planning had been highly stimulating, and that it was an honor to have worked under President Potter. As a follow up to the request during last Senate meeting to increase internet space for faculty email, Alvaro Arias reported that an additional ½ meg will be granted upon request.

- **Finance**

Chair David Cox reported that the financial health of the University currently looks strong. The subcommittee considering salary issues met again this morning and is organizing some representative groups, with a report planned by the end of summer. Confidentiality is obviously an issue when comparing salary rates. Gregg Kvistad, Provost, stated that both Chancellor Coombe and he have received the housing report; at present, salaries are a higher priority for the University.

- **Nominations, Credentials, and Rules (NCR)**

NCR Co-Chair Barrett asked incoming Senators to select committee assignments for the next academic year. Co-Chair Grealy thanked Barrett for his outstanding work as NCR Chair and requested patience from Senators as she moves into the role of Chair in the coming year.

- **Personnel**

Todd Wells, Personnel Committee Chair, announced that there were 38 nominations for faculty awards this year, including 15 in one category alone. This was the largest and strongest pool in recent history. He announced the following recipients of awards:

Adjunct Faculty Teaching Award: Chris Edwards (University College)

United Methodist University Scholar Teacher Award: Ilene Grabel (Graduate School of International Studies)

Distinguished Teaching Award: Jean East (Graduate School of Social Work) and Roberto Corrado (College of Law)

University Lecturer: Janice Keenan (Psychology)

Wells pointed out that four of the award winners this year are female. He concluded his report by stating that there is now one volunteer for the Parking Policy Review Committee, but no volunteers yet for the Parking Appeals Review Committee. Margaret Whitt then volunteered for this committee and shared some of her recent problems with unwarranted parking tickets.

- **Student Relations**

James Gilroy, Chair of the Senate Student Relations Committee, stated that he recently attended the Board of Trustees Student Affairs Committee in which a study on attrition and retention was presented. In the future, not only will departing students be offered exit interviews, but academic advisors of such students will also be contacted to gain additional data. Kvistad added that 40% of students leaving DU give finances as their primary reason; Willoughby, and Dan Ritchie, Chair of the Board of Trustees, have joined the committee studying attrition and are aware of the need for more student financial support. Gilroy informed Senators that a new constitution and by-laws have been written for graduate students as an attempt to make those students feel more included in the DU community. Graduate students will also be given Eco-passes for RTD. A proposal to require community service for students charged with alcohol violations is under consideration.

Senate Elections

NCR Co-chairs Barrett and Grealy began the elections process by asking for additional nominations to supplement nominations made at the previous Senate meeting.

- **Executive Secretary**
As no additional nominations from the floor came forward, Barrett moved and Wells seconded to close nominations for this position; **passed unanimously**. Margo Esplenlaub was elected.
- **Editor of *Faculty Forum***
As there were no additional nominations from the floor, Barrett moved and Grealy seconded to close nominations for this position; **passed unanimously**. Margaret Whitt was elected.
- **Executive Committee Member-at-Large**
Potter nominated Sandra Smith Eaton for this position; seconded by Cornish. Barrett then moved to close elections for this position; seconded by Cornish, **passed unanimously**. Note that Ron DeLyser was nominated for this position at the previous Senate meeting. Sandra Smith Eaton was elected by closed ballot.
- **Board of Trustees Faculty and Educational Affairs (FEAC) Representative:**
As no additional nominations came forward from the floor, Grealy moved to close nominations for this position; this was seconded by Barrett, and **passed unanimously**. Sandra Smith Eaton was elected.
- **Graduate Council Representative**
As no additional nominations from the floor came forward, Grealy moved to close nominations for this position; this was seconded by Barrett, and **passed unanimously**. Ron DeLyser was elected.
- **Undergraduate Council Representative**
As there were no additional nominations from the floor, Grealy moved to close nominations for this position; this was seconded by Barrett, and **passed unanimously**. Margaret Whitt was elected.

Recognition for Senators who are Retiring from the University

Potter recognized Andy Divine with a gift and thanked him for his many years of excellent service on the Senate. She thanked Joel Cohen for his 37 years at DU and his 8 years on Senate. Cohen expressed his appreciation for the Senate and said that serving as a Senator was a great way to keep current with happenings at the University. Potter then recognized Dennis Barrett for his 22+ years to the Senate including the NCR Chair position and presented him with a gift. Barrett stated that NCR is in good hands with Grealy. All Senators present expressed their sincere appreciation to Divine, Cohen, and Barrett with thunderous applause.

Recognition of Senate Executive Committee Members

The Senate Committee Chairs and Executive Secretary were thanked for their hard work over the last two years. Barrett presented Potter and Cornish with the order of the Sea Urchin, given to people who have never lost their spine or composure.

Installation of New Senate President

Potter thanked the Senators for allowing her to serve as Senate President, installed Dean Saitta as the new President, and presented him with the Senate gavel, informing everyone that the gavel was made by Don Stedman (Chemistry and Biochemistry). Saitta welcomed new Senators and promised to work hard in the position of President. He acknowledged Potter's passion for working on behalf of faculty interests and spearheading such projects as faculty salaries, task forces related to teaching and scholarship and, especially, the Professional Research Opportunities for Faculty (PROF) grants. He indicated how much of a pleasure it was to work with her, and that he has learned much under her leadership. He presented Potter with an antique Bohemian garnet bracelet, a book on the New York Adirondacks where Cathy and hubby Chris have a cabin and—in recognition of her compassion as a “save the world” social worker—a world globe containing French cognac. The Senators then gave Potter a standing ovation.

Other Business

- Gregg Kvistad was congratulated on becoming Provost.
- Potter reported that the Research and Scholarship Task Force results will be available to the Senate, Deans Council, and other forums in the fall.
- Potter announced that Vice Provost Emerita status has been suggested for Sheila Wright, previously Vice Provost for Campus Life, and currently Executive Director of the Living and Learning Communities with a faculty appointment in the College of Education. Kvistad stated that although the NCR research presented last week showed that in most institutions, emeritus status is granted to administrators only after retirement, the practice at DU has been otherwise. Whitt moved that NCR develop an actual policy by this fall on emeritus status for administrators at the University; this was seconded by Barrett and **passed unanimously**.

Adjournment

Wells moved to adjourn; this was seconded by Michael Levine-Clark, and **passed unanimously**; thus President Saitta adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m., thanked everyone for their participation today, and expressed his enthusiasm at becoming Senate President.

Respectfully submitted:

Jenny Cornish, Senate Executive Secretary