

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER
Faculty Senate
October 21, 2005
Mary Reed Building, Renaissance Room South
Minutes

Senators (or their Proxy) present: William Anderson, Elizabeth Anderson, Tom Quinn (for Dennis Barrett), Arthur Best, Marian Bussey, David Christophel, Bonnie Clark, Joel Cohen, David Cox, Nick Cutforth, Davy Davis, Ron DeLyser, Fran Dickson, Andy Divine, Sandra Dixon, Jack Donnelly, Margo Espenlaub, James Gilroy, Deb Grealy, Shannen Hill, Mike Keables, Brian Kiteley, Michael Levine-Clark, Steve McCarl, Don McCubbrey, Cathryn Potter, Catherine Reed, Dean Saitta, Nancy Sampson, Martha Santos, Michael Schulze, Jack Sheinbaum, Joe Szyliowicz, Javier Torre, John Tripp, Gordon Von Stroh, Tim Weaver, Todd Wells, Margaret Whitt, and Yavuz Yasar

Call to order

Cathryn Potter, Faculty Senate President, called the meeting to order at noon and welcomed everyone present. The minutes from the September 16, 2005 meeting were unanimously approved, with the usual caveat that senators contact Jenny Cornish, Senate Executive Secretary, at x14304 or jcornish@du.edu, with any corrections.

Provost search: Dean Saitta and Bruce Hutton

Senator Saitta and Bruce Hutton described the search process for the new provost and a lively, engaged discussion followed on the part of the senators present. A central issue for several of the senators was concern about an adequate pool of outside candidates. Other concerns included wondering about the possibility of employing a search firm. The credibility of the search process seemed important and there was consensus that the Search Committee be aware that Faculty Senate is interested in attracting enough outside candidates to produce a viable search process. A number of questions were also raised related to the mechanics of the process including outreach and advertising to attract minority candidates, and information needed about the decision making process in general. Faculty were comfortable with the chancellor making the final decision, but were curious about the process that got candidates to that point. There were also some voices that the committee was not weighted fairly, and that the sciences were underrepresented, although Saitta and Hutton assured the senators that the committee seems to be representative of the campus, with a good distribution of faculty and deans. The issue of the balance of skills needed was also discussed. Generally, it was felt that the provost should have the kind of financial skills necessary to guide the budget process, understand budget process and issues, and how the budget reflects the academic mission of the university. The primary skills, however, relate to guiding the academic mission, leadership in bringing the various units of the university together fostering more collaboration, and fostering a climate of educational and scholarship excellence. Saitta and Hutton promised to bring these issues to the Search Committee in the near future.

Committee reports

Academic Planning: David Christophel

Senator Christophel informed the senators that the Academic Committee meets immediately before Faculty Senate in Renaissance North. The chair of the Marsico Steering Committee visited the Academic Planning Committee today. A new sub-committee has been developed to serve in an advisory capacity to the Office of Admissions. Christophel requested that any senators from SOCS interested in serving on the new sub-committee contact him as soon as possible, so that there will be adequate representation on this new group. He further stated that the Patent Policy passed unscathed through CHE.

Personnel Committee: Todd Wells

Senator Wells discussed the goal of the Personnel Committee this year to revisit faculty awards and to clarify the nomination process. Granting awards to junior faculty members has been considered yet could impact tenure decisions. In terms of benefits packages for faculty, the future of health care coverage is an important consideration. Several senators also argued in favor of pursuing tuition exchanges.

Student Affairs Committee: Jim Gilroy

Senator Gilroy shared data indicating that the retention rate was up to 88% last year, yet some students are transferring due to lack of an intellectual environment that is stimulating enough. There appears to be a problem with alcohol dependence among the student population. Allegations have been made against a faculty member by an African American student claiming to be the victim of an ethnic slur.

Nominations, Credentials, and Rules: Deb Grealy

Senator Grealy reported that Senator Von Stroh was reappointed as the Faculty Senate representative to Graduate Council.

Patent Policy: Second Reading and Vote

President Potter led a discussion of the Patent Policy among the senators that resulted in a recommendation that a time limit should be associated the policy, perhaps six months to one year after the patent is filed. With this addendum, the policy was passed with all in favor, none in opposition, and no abstentions.

Senate Salary Report: Discussion and Next Steps

Senator David Cox reviewed the Senate Salary Report that has already been presented to the Board of Trustees and the upper administration. He pointed out that the university lags behind other comparative and competitive universities. The Trustees appeared positive about the report and responsive to the request to raise salaries beyond the merit process. The Provost and Human Relations continue to work on this issue in collaboration with a Faculty Senate working group that includes the President, President-Elect, and Finance Committee Chair. Senators were asked to limit distribution of the

report in order to safeguard university privacy at this time. Senators commended the report as well written, timely, and essential, and President Potter added that the Deans should be looking at each division for appropriate comparable data. She also reminded senators that in the past, Faculty Senate was not nearly as involved in the process as we are at present. Further, the issue of housing assistance is important to incoming faculty, and is an easier problem for the administration to address since it requires one time rather than ongoing funding. She concluded by thanking Senator Dave Longbrake for his excellent work on this project.

Adjournment

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

Minutes taken by:

Tinka Crosby

Respectfully submitted by:

Jenny Cornish, Faculty Senate Executive Secretary