

**University of Denver
Faculty Senate
September 15, 2006
Mary Reed Building, Renaissance Room South
Minutes**

Senators (or their Proxy) present: Alvaro Arias, Davor Balzar, Rick Barbour, Rodney Buxton, Victor Castellani, Bonnie Clark, David Cox, Nick Cutforth, Ron DeLyser, Sandy Dixon, Sandra Eaton, Margo Espenlaub (Exec. Secretary), James Gilroy, Deb Grealy, John Hill, Michael Karson, Mike Keables, Brian Kiteley, Greg Kvistad (Provost), Frank Laird, Walter LaMendola, Rick Leaman, Michael Levine-Clark, Mario Lopez, Seth Masket, Don McCubbrey, Lily Mendoza, Robert Mill, Sarah Morelli, Mia Mulvey, Rahul Nair, Paul Novak, Scott Phillips, Cathryn Potter (Past-President, Faculty Senate), Catherine Reed, Charles Reichardt, Susan Sadler, Roger Salters, Nancy Sampson, Jack Sheinbaum, Gordon Von Stroh, Tim Weaver, Todd Wells, and Margaret Whitt.

Call to Order

Dean Saitta, Faculty Senate President, called the meeting to order at noon and welcomed everyone present. Sen. Keables moved to approve the minutes from May 26, 2006. This motion was seconded by Sen. Leaman.

Introduction of New Senators

New senators were introduced: Mia Mulvey (School of Art and Art History), Mario Lopez (Computer Science), Scott Phillips (Sociology and Criminology), Rick Barbour (Theatre), Michael Karsen (Graduate School of Professional Psychology), Frank Laird (Graduate school of International Studies), Susan Sadler (Biological Sciences), Sandra Eaton (Chemistry/Biochemistry), Rick Leaman (Daniels College of Business), and Paul Novak (University College).

Notice of Upcoming Events

- Sept. 22, New Faculty Luncheon, Driscoll Ballroom, 11:30-1:00
- Oct. 5, All-Faculty Meeting, Craig Hall Community Room, 4:00-5:30
- Nov. 3 Chancellor's Roundtable, Driscoll Commerce Room, 1:00-2:00.

Provost's Report and Questions

Provost Kvistad discussed faculty advancement and announced there were 97 new faculty lines being filled at the tenured, non tenured, and instructor level. There are 18 new tenure lines connected to the Marsico Initiative with additional tenure lines planned for next year.

The College of Law, which has grown quickly over the last few years, will be cutting back on faculty growth to focus on quality of education. Increasing—and decreasing—faculty positions is connected to the University's plan to cap enrollment.

The Provost reported that the budget looks good for next year. He will be meeting today with the Faculty Senate Finance Committee to discuss the budget for the coming year. The reserves, endowment, and applicant pool are also strong.

The University will be limiting enrollments across the board with the exception of University College and The Women's College. Increased enrollment and tuition have been the two main sources of revenue. The University seeks caps to both which will mean limited resources for academic units in FY 08, 09, and 2010. The University will pursue other revenue streams, primarily through annual giving and endowment increases. The Provost stated that University Advancement understands this very well. The University will be directing its efforts toward people and programs.

Sen. Mill asked how the business major will be affected by lowering enrollment figures. The Provost pointed out that the deans will be addressing enrollment numbers of incoming students, particularly those who are broadly interested in a wide range of courses. The deans will also address future planning with limited resources.

Sen. Salters suggested there be flexibility with enrollment numbers for qualified and capable students who want to study in particular fields and asked if cap numbers (4,500 at the undergraduate level) might be modified. The Provost responded that because the undergrad experience is residential the University does not have adequate housing for incoming students and would rather focus on quality of education.

Sen. Masket pointed out the national downturn in enrollments. The Provost clarified that the current plan is parallel to 2001 when the University budget was adjusted to anticipate students not returning to DU. In 2006-07 the University has many more applicants than current students. This means a broader applicant pool from which to choose.

Sen. Cox asked about risk management procedures that are in place to protect students in the event of unforeseen crises. The Provost confirmed that there are procedures in anticipation of various disasters, including the possibility of a bird flu pandemic. The University has been working on protocols for the past six months, addressing the issue of housing thousands of students in residence halls for an extended period if necessary. DU is developing effective responses to such scenarios; other universities are doing the same.

Sen. Kiteley asked about faculty salary increases. The Provost responded that the two revenue sources are not sufficient to address the issue at this time. He pointed out that a plan needs to be set in place. The Board of Trustees is also interested in the faculty salary issue. The percent merit increase for FY07 has been discussed but remains to be finalized.

Faculty Athletic Committee Election Process

Sen. Grealy distributed copies of the Faculty Senate Constitution and reviewed the bylaws. She will be distributing ballots for election; there are three nominations thus far.

Mini-Minor Proposal

Sen. Eaton presented the proposal for the Mini-Minor as an alternative option for satisfying the current Thematic Core requirement. She discussed the proposal's origin, rationale, advantages, and required resources, and steps for determining the level of faculty support. She discussed how a second minor would, for NSM students, build depth in areas other than the sciences and would have application, for example, to the complex field of healthcare where students need a strong background in the sciences along with competency in another area of study such as psychology, sociology, economics, business, art, or music. Eaton suggested that students would take courses that have been developed for majors and minors; new courses would not need to be developed. She proposed that senators lead discussion in their departments, take a straw poll, and come to the October Senate meeting prepared to discuss sentiment in their units. Eaton expressed support for the increased role of the Senate in faculty discussions of ways to improve academics at DU.

Pres. Saitta pointed out that the Mini-Minor presents an opportunity to have greater faculty discussion of issues around liberal education at DU, and that even if the Mini-Minor proposal was unsuccessful the discussion could still suggest ways to improve the existing Core Curriculum. Sen. Reichardt asked if the Mini-Minor would replace the Thematic Core and which courses would be chosen. Sen. Whitt supports the idea of a mini-minor, especially if this supported students' goals. Sen. Arias also supports prerequisites for it. Sen. Salters asked what outcomes would be gained and what value would be added to a specific course of study outside a student's major field. Sen. Eaton responded that students would be given an edge in a competitive field like medicine or healthcare. Sen. Sampson pointed out that business students don't have a minor but this could be attractive to them and be career enhancing. Sen. McCubbrey agreed. Sen. Nair expressed concern for the instructor of the course teaching students outside that field. Sen. Eaton did not see this as a problem as long as students have met the prerequisites for the course. A straw poll of the Faculty Senate was unanimous in favor of having senators in relevant units bring the Mini-Minor proposal to their faculty. Feedback collected at the October senate meeting will guide the Academic Planning Committee's consideration of the proposal.

Other New Ideas

Co-Sponsored Programming: Pres. Saitta asked if senators would be agreeable to using the Senate's budget to co-sponsor programming on academic matters with other units on campus (e.g., Honors Program, Multicultural Excellence, etc.). The Senate responded favorably to these ideas.

Faculty Forum Weblog

Pres. Saitta described a proposal to transform the paper *Faculty Forum* into an online weblog. The weblog would promote faculty discussion of important issues, such as the meaning of academic excellence. Saitta is working with the CTL on launching a pilot blog for the Senate to review. Sen. Masket asked about anonymous postings to the blog. Pres. Saitta expressed a belief that anonymous postings should not be allowed. Sen. Wells agreed that effective discussion among faculty means that anonymous posts should

not be allowed. Sen. Clark raised the question of access. Pres. Saitta is thinking faculty only, but this can be further discussed. Sen. Wells suggested the electronic *Forum* be sent out as email with a link to the weblog. Sen. Mill suggested both paper and electronic copies be made available. Sen. Grealy reminded the Senate about the need for electronic archiving of the *Faculty Forum*. Saitta suggested forming a subcommittee to discuss the various issues surrounding the weblog and come back with recommendations for a Senate vote. At the end of the meeting a subcommittee had been formed consisting of Saitta, Sen. Whitt (current Editor of the *Forum*), Sen. LaMendola, and Sen. McCubbrey. This group will advise CTL on creation of the blog and present the product to the full Senate.

Subcommittee Meetings

- Personnel: (Chair TBA)
- Academic Planning: Michael Levine-Clark
- Student Relations: Nancy Sampson
- Finance: David Cox
- Nominations, Credentials, and Rules: Deb Grealy

Adjournment

Sen. Witt moved to adjourn: this was seconded by Sen. Leaman, and passed unanimously. President Saitta adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m., thanked everyone for their participation today, and asked that subcommittees meet with chairs.

Respectfully submitted by

Margo Espenlaub, Faculty Senate Executive Secretary