

**University of Denver
Faculty Senate
Minutes
February 13, 2009
Craig Hall, Community Room**

Senators (or proxies) present: Bill Anderson, Don Bacon, Rick Barbour, Rodney Buxton, Victor Castellani, Frederique Chevillot, Bonnie Clark, Judith Fox, Katherine Freeman, Sylvia Hall-Ellis, Michele Hanna, John Hill (Executive Secretary), Jennifer Hoffman, Peggy Keeran, Ray Kireilis, Brian Kiteley, James LaVita, Rick Leaman, Tiffani Lennon, Michael Levine-Clark (President), Chris Malloy, Don McCubbrey, Keith Miller, Sarah Morelli, Mia Mulvey, Rahul Nair, Kim Newman, Paul Novak, Maik Nwosu, Linda Olson, Scott Phillips, Tom Quinn, Charles Reichardt, Dean Saitta, Nancy Sampson, Kelly Snyder, Linda Tate, Matt Taylor, Gordon von Stroh, Nancy Wadsworth, and Kate Willink.

Call to Order

Michael Levine-Clark, Faculty Senate President, called the meeting to order at noon and welcomed everyone present. A motion to approve the minutes from January 30, 2009 was seconded and approved.

Provost's Report

The Provost reported the following in response to questions:

Work on the budget is just about done. We expect to unfreeze positions and starting hiring again within a few days.

Undergraduate applications remain strong; graduate applications also appear strong, but it is harder to tell because they are decentralized. Undergraduate deposits are marginally higher than last year, but many students are waiting for financial aid packages which should go out in the next few days.

Introduction to Interim Dean Jerry Wartgow

Work is progressing well on the new building. The official ground breaking ceremony is scheduled for February 25, 2009.

We have a new Denver Teacher program in conjunction with Denver Public Schools. This accelerated residency program will train up to 100 teachers per year.

The Dean search is progressing well. One candidate will visit campus next week, and two additional candidates will visit the following week.

Dean Wartgow expressed thanks to all for their continuing support.

Bookstore (Annette Nelson)

Annette is initiating communication with faculty and the Senate to inform them about textbook issues and trends, and how the bookstore can help.

There is increasing and intense competition among publishers, but nevertheless prices of text books are “skyrocketing.” The variety of formats available is increasing, and includes traditional bound books, CDs, 3-hole punched (unbound) material (substantially lower cost), and ebooks.

Publishers are attempting to use bundles to combat competition from the used book market. However, the Higher Education Act requires that components must be available unbundled.

Standard bookstore practices and services include:

- Maintains a standard 25% gross margin on textbooks.
- Pays 50% of new price for buy backs.
- Searches the used book market for lower priced copies of textbooks.
- If the bookstore runs out of a required textbook, additional copies are ordered and shipped 2nd day air.

The bookstore is making publisher representatives aware of the recently passed Senate resolution regarding bundling and pricing.

Sustainability council (Fred Cheever)

Fred Cheever is chair of the University of Denver’s Sustainability Council. The council is required by the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment which was signed by the Chancellor last year. Over 600 U.S. colleges and universities have signed the agreement.

The key requirements of the agreement include: achieving carbon neutrality as soon as possible, and infusing sustainability into the campus community and curriculum.

The council is working on a very detailed sustainability plan for the campus. Plan elements include carbon neutrality, recycling, landscaping, water use, commuting and transportation, vendor impacts and conduct, metrics for tracking performance, etc. The plan does not directly address construction contractors, but the University architect is involved with the council. The plan will be released for campus review later in the spring, and ultimately submitted to the Trustees.

The council meets on the first Thursday of every month; the next meeting is on March 5th. Members include faculty, staff, and students. The council is almost entirely a volunteer effort.

Tobacco-Free Campus

The Senate again discussed the proposed tobacco-free campus policy. Issues raised and discussed included: potential impacts on neighbors; sidewalk waste; whether neighbors have been adequately consulted about the policy; enforceability of the policy; and fairness.

Many senators stated they did not have enough information to vote in favor of the proposed policy.

In response to a question, Michael Levine-Clark stated that the Chancellor would make the final decision regarding the policy.

Chip Reichardt commended the students for their diligent efforts, concerns for the health and welfare of others, and initiative regarding the proposal; others voiced similar recognition of students' efforts.

It was moved and seconded that the Senate should endorse the proposed tobacco free campus policy. The Senate did not approve the motion. The vote was:

For:	1
Against:	37
Abstain:	5

It was moved and seconded that the Senate should support increased enforcement of the existing 25-foot rule regarding smoking outside of buildings on campus. The Senate approved the motion. The vote was:

For:	38
Against:	5
Abstain:	0

General Education Review Committee (Linda Tate, Rod Buxton, and Luc Beaudoin)

Luc Beaudoin provided the following information about the General Education Review currently underway.

About one year ago, the review committee was given a broad mandate by the Provost to review general education requirements and formulate recommendations. The review does not examine recent revision, i.e., first year seminar, writing program, and upper level writing intensive.

A key message learned from many discussions with faculty is that foundations and core are often straining departments' abilities to properly staff majors and minors. Hence, the proposal distributed to the Senate prior to this Senate meeting. Luc walked the Senate through the proposal, and emphasized the following: major and minor courses would be used as the basis for general education requirements; it is structured to achieve the University of Denver's undergraduate outcomes; the linkages to outcomes were a crucial consideration; the distribution of credits is approximately unchanged; each subject area is tied to a specific division or

department; and the general education committee serves only as a clearinghouse, faculty and divisions are responsible for the entire curriculum.

In response to questions, Luc added the following:

If a student tests out of a language course, they would take an additional 4 credits in the same language or a different language.

The Engineering Department has been involved.

Major and minor courses can cover both general education and major and minor requirements.

Students cannot garner 8 credit hours for only 4 credit hours of class work (no double counting).

This is intended to be effective fall 2010. The Associate Deans would figure out the number of seats required.

The committee believes this will “reduce faculty pain,” increase offerings, strengthen programs, and increase flexibility.

The requirements would be reduced from 18 courses to 15 courses plus the language requirement.

The Registrar reports this approach integrates well with the APR processes.

Divisions would decide how to handle IB and AP credits.

The entire faculty of undergraduate units will vote on the proposed changes through a vote coordinated through the Faculty Senate.

The committee is open to reconsidering and refining outcomes to align more closely with the Vision, Values, Mission, and Goals statement recently developed by the UPAC.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was introduced, seconded, and passed. President Levine-Clark adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

John Hill
Faculty Senate Executive Secretary