

DRAFT—NOT APPROVED BY SENATE

**University of Denver
Faculty Senate
Minutes
September 28, 2012
Renaissance Room South**

Senators (or proxies) present: Sheimelis Assefa, Kim Bender, Karen Benson, Jenny Bowers, Jennifer Brady, Tess Bruce, Rodney Buxton, Victor Castellani, Frederique Chevillot, Claude d’Estree, Sandy Dixon, Graham Faust (proxy for Jessica Munns), Russell Fielding (proxy for Paul Sutton), Jim Gilroy, Sylvia Hall-Ellis, Leslie Hasche, Annabeth Headrick, John Hill, Scott Johns, Arthur Jones, Megan Kelly, Ray Kireilis, Michelle Kruse-Crocker, Frank Laird (proxy for Joe Szyliowicz), Rick Leaman, Scott Leutenegger, Jeff Lin, Mohammad Matin, Don McCubbrey, Erin Meyer, Keith Miller, Vi Narapareddy, Anne Penner, Erika Polson, George Potts, Martin Quigley, Charles Reichardt, Jeremy Reynolds, Paula Rhodes, Nick Rockwell (proxy for Rafael Rossotto Ioris), Dean Saitta, Nancy Sampson, Jamie Shapiro, Amrik Singh, Geoff Stacks, Mary Stansbury, Robert Stencel, Jing Sun, Matt Taylor, Ron Throupe, Robert Urquhart, Linda Wang, and Melanie Witt.

Call to Order, Approval of Minutes

Scott Leutenegger, Senate President, called the meeting to order at noon.

A motion to approve the minutes from the May 25, 2012 Senate meeting was seconded and approved.

Provost’s Report—Gregg Kvistad

Welcome to a new academic year. We have a lot of very exciting things going on this fall. We had a wonderful article about the debates in the Denver Post; we could not have hoped for better. Our third and final debate preparation meeting will occur this afternoon.

My report about fall enrollments will be a bit different from previous fall reports. We have an enrollment shortfall. This is not a major structural problem, and no fundamental changes are needed.

At the end of the first week we are 96 students short of budget. We have 1215 first-time-first year students, 35 short of the 1250 budgeted. The summer melt was one percent higher than last year. Students taking a “gap year” increased from 33 last year to 63; we had budgeted for 30 gap year students. The number of students taking a gap year is increasing nationwide. Persistence and transfer students were both slightly below expectations. We went through our entire waitlist in June; this is far earlier than in previous years. We maintained a high academic profile and achieved 20 percent domestic diversity.

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We also have increased our TOEFL minimum and tested the English skills of arriving international students. This results in 22 new students not being allowed to enroll in courses until they complete additional English language training. This is very good for academic quality, but it also reduces in enrollments. While this hits the budget, it is the right thing to do.

We have an enormous number of transfer credits. The first-time first-year students are transferring in 9,000 hours of IB, AP, and other transfer credits. So they will be moving through more quickly. Many of them are dual degree students.

We are working some minor issues in a couple of graduate units.

The enrollment shortfall is not a crisis, but the enrollment shortfall will have some permanent budget implications; we are working aggressively to figure out how to best address the situation and make optimal use of our dollars. We expect to dig out over two years.

The budget includes a 2.75 percent merit pool and \$1.5 million for faculty salary increases. We will stay as close to these numbers as we can. We have worked long and hard on the faculty salary increases; we hope to stick with the plan of \$1.5 million increases for each of the next four years.

We are extraordinarily tuition dependent, so even a small shortfall has a significant impact. We are working to raise more non-tuition dollars through annual giving and endowments.

Responses to Questions and Additional Comments:

Applications are not a problem. We are not experiencing declining applications. We expect to have over 26,000 applications in three years.

We have had some minor glitches in the models we have used to model application behavior: the historical patterns have not held as well as they did in the previous few years.

I do not expect ongoing faculty searches to be affected by this.

Faculty expressed thanks for the TOEFL testing and follow-up; it is a benefit to classroom quality and international student success. The Provost added that we are looking into the possibility of in-person interviews for international students.

The evaluation of the medical school is continuing. We are being very careful. We expect to have a better sense of direction on this at the end of the year.

Final details regarding the debate continue to evolve The Secret Service, campaigns, Commission on Presidential Debates, and Denver Police resolve issues. The best source of information is the DU Website. The campus is closed on the day of the debate and only a very

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few buildings will be open. The campus will be open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Kathy Grieve, David Greenberg, and staff have put in 100s of hours and have done a tremendous job. We have had nearly 30,000 faculty, staff, students, and citizens attend about 115 debate-related events.

Kathy Grieve expressed thanks to the entire DU community and emphasized that we have done an outstanding job of coming together and cooperating on debate preparations.

Renew DU Update—George Potts

George provided an update on Renew DU:

We have established six incubators: Academic Technology, Inclusive Excellence, Interdisciplinary, International, Research, and Teaching (more information is available at the Renew DU portfolio site). Each incubator comprises about ten faculty and is chaired by and administrator. Our goal is to identify and fund transformational ideas

The most promising ideas in each incubator will receive one-time funding for a 2 to 2½ year pilot test. A total of \$2 million is available for these pilot projects. Selections will be made by the Renew DU steering committee which includes all deans, some administrators, and the chairs of all of the incubators.

Over the next two weeks the incubator chairs will contact everyone who submitted initial proposals; over 150 proposals were submitted. Many of the 150 initial proposals were similar or overlapped. Many of them are being combined in to single projects. Pilot project proposals will be submitted by the end of fall term. The proposals will be posted on the portfolio site.

It is still early in the process and difficult to predict how this will evolve.

Faculty and Staff Campaign—Nancy Christensen

I hope you were able to attend the kickoff luncheon; over 500 attended.

You should have already received a brochure about the campaign; I brought additional brochures with me today.

You can make pledges and gifts anytime though June 30, 2013. Any amount, no matter how small, helps, so please contribute what you can. Our goal is 35 percent participation. We have just started and we are already at 14 percent participation.

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In response to a question about matching grants, the Provost stated that all of the available matching money had been fully spent, but perhaps a partner will put up additional matching funds.

Senate Elections—Sylvia Hall-Ellis and Frederique Chevillot

Arthur Jones was elected Senator-at-large by a voice vote of the Senate.

Executive Session (Senators only)—Scott Leutenegger

Adjourn to Committee Chair Elections and Schedule Committee Meetings

The meeting of the full Senate adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Prepared and submitted by

John Hill
Faculty Senate Secretary