

University of Denver
Faculty Senate
Minutes
March 1, 2013
Renaissance Room South

Senators (or proxies) present: Alvaro Arias (proxy for Mario Lopez), Shimelis Assefa, Karen Bensen, Jenny Bowers, Jennifer Brady, Tess Bruce (proxy by Scott Johns), Rodney Buxton, Mercedes Calbi, Victor Castellani, Frederique Chevillot, Claude d' Estree, Sandy Dixon, Russell Fielding (proxy for Paul Sutton), Graham Foust, Jim Gilroy, Sylvia Hall-Ellis, Leslie Hasche, Annabeth Headrick, John Hill, Tim Hurley, Scott Johns, Van Johnston, Arthur Jones, Megan Kelly, Ray Kireilis, Michelle Kruse-Crocker, Frank Laird (proxy for Joe Szyliowicz), Frederic Latremoliere, Rick Leaman, Tiffani Lennon (proxy by Frederique Chevillot), Scott Leutenegger, Jeff Lin, Mohammad Matin, Don McCubbrey, Erin Meyer, Keith Miller, David Mindock, Julianne Mitchell (proxy for Kim Bender), Michele Morrison, Vi Narapareddy, Linda Olson, Paul Pallab, Anne Penner, George Potts, Trace Reddell, Charles Reichardt, Naomi Reshotko, Rafael Rossotto Ioris, Dean Saitta, Amrik Singh, Geoff Stacks, Bob Stencil (proxy for Mercedes Calbi), Jing Sun, Elizabeth (Beth) Suter (proxy for Christina Foust), Matt Taylor, Ron Throupe, Robert Urquhart, Linda Wang, Courtney Welton-Mitchell, 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 February 1, 2013 Senate meeting was seconded and approved.

Provost's Report—Gregg Kvistad

The Provost provided updates on three matters:

Boone—There is quite a conversation going on among students and administration regarding the appearance of Boone at a recent DU event. Some native-American students protested and objected to Boone's presence and activities. Boone is not the official DU mascot, and has not been the DU mascot since 1998; DU has not had a mascot since 1998. The Chancellor and I have spent over 15 hours in conversations with the interested and affected parties. The Chancellor will be sending a letter to the DU community sometime in the next few days. Among the things we need to do is resolve the mascot issue; not having a mascot is too subtle and ambiguous.

Enrollments—We are on course to meet our fall target of 1375 first-time first-year students. Applications are up over 30 percent and we expect about 20,000 applicants; 5273 have accepted thus far. Academic and diversity profiles are holding thus far. Campus visits are up 22 percent;

campus visits significantly increase the likelihood of a student coming to DU. Out-of-state applications are up by nearly 60 percent; international applications are down by about 20 percent; applications from students of color are up by 28 percent.

It is too early to have any indications about graduate applications.

Budget—The first round of budget development is complete and the second round has started. Budgeted expenses will be cut by a total of \$5 million across all units for FY 14; additional cuts across all units of \$2 million are planned for FY15. This will produce operating margins of roughly \$15 million for FY14 through FY18. We have to move beyond single-digit operating margins.

All units are submitting plans to accomplish these expense reductions. Our goal is to accomplish these cuts with no impacts on faculty or students. For example, we spend \$3 million annually for food; surely some of this expense could be cut without diminishing the academic experience?

Additional budget initiatives include:

- **Enrollment Stabilization Reserve**—Reserve approximately \$6 million through unit-retained gainshare reserves of approximately 2 percent of revenues for each unit.
- **Undergraduate Need-Based Scholarship Match**—Identify expendable net university assets that could be transferred to a quasi-endowment and provide a scholarship match for donors. A total of \$16.2 million has been identified; we would like to get to \$20 million. Donors are very motivated by matching opportunities.
- **Exploration of Structural Changes for Sustainability**—this includes examining technology adoption in teaching and learning; changing faculty roles and the mix of teaching, research and service; possible changes in the types of faculty series; outsourcing non-academic activities and functions; restructure and eliminate non-academic activities and functions; and control overhead expenses. We will assess whether we should do things differently, or not at all. You will be part of the conversation.

Responses to Questions and Additional Comments:

Question: Could you provide some examples of possible structural changes?—Answer: Do we need an HR person in every unit? With Healthcare Act do we need a student clinic? Distribute some functions differently? Perhaps fewer “pillars” with a full array of services?

Facilities reserve funds is an example of unused funds.

Undergraduate discounts are very much higher than graduate discounts.

Question: Many students are entirely unaware of the Boone incident.—Response: Student Life is increasing their involvement. Our 150 anniversary events will include activities to increase awareness. It provides DU an opportunity to acknowledge our past and the roles of our founders in Colorado History including Sand Creek.

Social Media Policy Update—Linda Olson

The Student Relations Committee has crafted the following draft faculty guidelines for use of social media in the classroom or teaching:

DU faculty should not require students to use social media such as Facebook or Twitter for communicating about any academic or course related activities, unless the course is inherently related to the study and use of social media. Using these tools for social interaction with students is a personal choice that faculty should consider with thoughtfulness and respect for the nuances of mediated relationships.

Senators should share this with their units and send questions, suggestions, and comments to Linda Olson.

Question: Where would these guidelines be?—Response: Scott Leutenegger suggested the Senate may need a collection of best practices. The Provost suggested it might be a Faculty Senate policy, or reside within units.

Student Outreach and Support—Michael Johnson, Director Student Outreach and Support, and Molly Hooker, Director, Graduate Student Services

Michael and Molly Hooker distributed and reviewed the Student Outreach and Support brochure. They emphasized the importance of identifying and assisting students who might otherwise “slip through the cracks.” They emphasized the importance of reporting even small indications of student difficulties; multiple seemingly small indicators can be an indicator of a much more serious situation. A core team of Michael and seven others perform direct outreach and make sure students get connected with the right resources.

Molly emphasized that the considerations and factors described by Michael also apply to graduate students. She also noted that issues for graduate students can be bigger and more pronounced. She is available to work with all units.

Potential concerns can be reported at: <http://www.du.edu/studentlife/studentsupport/index.html>

Responses to Questions and Additional Comments:

Question: Is it confidential?—Response: This is not confidential, but we share only on a very limited need-to-know basis. There are confidential resources on campus.

Question: Do you have data about numbers of cases?—Response: The Provost noted that the graduate situations are much more tightly connected to the units. He also noted that graduate issues can be far more intense, e.g., Virginia Tech.

“Pioneer Cares” is a replacement for the term “Students of Concern” which was not helpful.

Michael added that Campus Safety should be called first for life-threatening situations. Student Outreach and Support is a secondary resource.

Break-out Groups (Changing Faculty Roles Follow-up)

Executive Session

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Prepared and submitted by

John Hill
Faculty Senate Secretary