

**University of Denver
Faculty Senate
May 9, 2008
Driscoll 1864
Minutes**

Senators (or their Proxy) present: Bill Anderson, Mario Lopez (proxy for Alvaro Arias), Robert Stencel (proxy for Davor Balzar), Rick Barbour, Rodney Buxton, Victor Castellani, Bonnie Clark, Nick Cutforth, Ron DeLyser, Ginni Ishimatsu (proxy for Sandy Dixon), Sandra Eaton, Margo Espenlaub (Exec. Secretary), James Gilroy, Sylvia Hall-Ellis, John Hill, Michael Karson, Gregg Kvistad (Provost), Rick Leaman, Michael Levine-Clark (President-elect), Chris Malloy, Rahul Nair, Ved Nanda, Kim Newman, Paul Novak, Charles Reichardt, Susan Sadler, Dean Saitta (President), Nancy Sampson, Paul Sutton, Ramki Thurimella, Gordon Von Stroh, Time Weaver, Margaret Whitt, Kate Willink.

Call to Order

Dean Saitta, Faculty Senate President, called the meeting to order at noon and welcomed everyone present. A motion to approve the minutes from April 4, 2008 was seconded and approved. It was noted that several senators were attending DU's Homeless Connect event, underway concurrently with Faculty Senate.

Provost Report

Preparation for DU's self-study is underway in advance of the Higher Learning Commission visit scheduled for spring 2011.

Dean searches are complete for AHSS and DCB. The Morgridge College of Education dean search is still in process, as is the search for Vice Provost for Internationalization.

According to "Open Doors", 738 DU undergrads studied abroad during 2006-07. DU is second only to Yeshiva University in putting students abroad.

Deposited undergraduate students for next year is 1,147 (1,130 was the target number), The academic profile is higher than last year: SAT combined is 1194 (1182 last year); ACT 26.7 (26 last year); GPA is 3.66 for incoming students (3.61 last year); 13.43% are multicultural (15.31% last year).

Enrollments in graduate programs are up from last year: DCB confirmed 141 (115 last year), AHSS is up; NATS is down some; Education is up; GSIS is up some; and GSSW is up. There are 1,185 confirmed acceptances of grad enrollments for fall 2008. Harvard, Princeton, Yale, and Penn are all reaching into their wait lists. DU is as well.

Tuition Exchange: A Boston firm contracted to conduct a cost-benefit study and has produced a report for HR. If 20 students in 2012-13 use the tuition exchange, the net cost to DU would be \$560,000 – \$590,000. This could be offset by the discount rate (32.9%) making the cost between \$370,000 – 400,000 per year. This is an expensive benefit for only a few. Alternatively, the

money could be used to offset the rising cost of healthcare, which is up 7% this year. Sen. Saitta said he would email a copy of the Sibson report to any interested parties.

Pres. Saitta thanked Provost Kvistad for his report to the Senate.

University Policy for Religious Accommodations (Gary Brower and Jesus Trevino)

Gary Brower, University Chaplain, presented a draft of a religious accommodation policy. Chaplain Brower said it is time to have a policy that allows students to be absent from class, pending prior notification of their teachers. He will post the religious holidays on the DU website. These are not official university holidays. Staff also need to inform supervisors, and faculty need to inform chairs. The policy statement is modeled on those of disabilities and athletics.

A question was asked why there is nothing in the honor code that addresses abuse of absences from class. Brower said these will be addressed. Sen. Sutton asked about unreasonable requests. Brower said to send such requests to the chaplain's office. Jesus Trevino said students are reporting that faculty are sensitive to their religious requests, but there are some faculty who are not. The Senate will vote on the policy at the May 30 meeting. Pres. Saitta thanked Chaplain Brower and Assoc. Provost Trevino for their presentation to the Senate.

General Education Review (Luc Beaudoin and Review Committee reps)

Luc Beaudoin explained the scope and purpose of the General Education Review Committee: to reconsider gen ed requirements (Foundations and Core), but not to reconsider programs recently voted on since the last iteration of the Thematic Core, such as Cherrington Global Scholars, first year seminar, and the writing program.

Sen. Karson said there needs to be a course in civics. Sen. Eaton said numeracy is not well addressed in the current program, especially upper division levels that use quantitative reasoning. These concerns were seconded by several senators.

Sen. Ishimatsu suggested that the core curriculum needs to be pared down given the heavy teaching load it requires from some units. The Provost said the current Core was supposed to have participation from every unit but has become a big drain on AHSS faculty. Sen. Ishimatsu said that gen ed requirements, study abroad, and work in the major present scheduling problems for students. Sen. Eaton said NSM faculty don't feel they can teach an upper division Core course without attached prerequisites. Sen. Whitt said civics and geography literacy could be themes in first year writing courses. Pres. Saitta wondered if this would be effective without better "horizontal integration" between SOCS Foundations courses and writing program courses.

Beaudoin said he would present this senate feedback to the Gen Ed committee. He said that Core credit hours will not be increased, but made easier to fulfill or decreased. The committee will have a proposal in fall '08 after compiling feedback and discussing models for the Core this spring.

Sen. Castellani asked if the Gen Ed review is happening because of looming accreditation. The Provost said this was not intentional, but that any Gen Ed program needs review after a certain

length of time. The current Core is going on eight years old, so it is due. A question was asked about Gen Ed's alignment with the university vision of serving the public good. Beaudoin said there would be reworking of learning outcomes so we can map new strategies onto Gen Ed development.

Sen. Reichardt would like to see a theme for writing intensive courses that connects students to thinking and reasoning. Sen. DeLyser said this has been elevated in the Core along with reflective judgment and interdisciplinary approaches—the point of Core. Beaudoin reminded the Senate that the committee's work is to be resource-neutral, not to add more faculty responsibilities. Sen. Eaton said we should improve critical thinking and develop capstones.

Pres. Saitta thanked Prof. Beaudoin for his report to the Senate.

Sabbatical Leave Policy Modification: First Reading

At issue is adding a few words to the policy that clarify the eligibility of Clinical Professors as they are defined in the APT document. Sen. Sadler said this should be a careful process. The Provost said the policy would go to FEAC before going to the full Board of Trustees on June 6. He said clinical faculty are no different from other faculty; what is different is that they bring specific, applied skills to DU. Sen. Nanda would like maximum inclusiveness. Sen. Sadler suggested that we recommend the policy modification to FEAC, rather than approve.

So that we can send the policy change to FEAC next week, voting on waving a second reading of the suggested change was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved with 3 abstentions and one opposed. Sen. Eaton moved that we recommend the policy clarification. The motion was seconded and approved with 8 abstentions.

Senate Elections (Susan Sadler)

Sen. Sadler explained the election process for the next meeting. We will use clickers for voting.

Senate Business Updates

Faculty Grievance Policy: the AAUP Subcommittee met yesterday and revised the document in light of comments received from the academic deans. Pres. Saitta said the Senate will see a revised draft soon.

Administrator Evaluations

Pres. Saitta announced that the Senate Executive Committee has supported his proposal that we not do administrator evaluations this year. This is because of (1) changes in the Office of Assessment that disrupted this year's planning of the process, (2) the number of dean positions currently in transition, (3) the historically low faculty response rate to the survey, (4) last year's almost non-existent untenured professor response, (5) continuing concerns about the confidentiality and utility of the process, and (6) a sense that the survey questions have become a bit dated and may not address the most important aspects of an administrator's job given changes in the nature of higher education. The Senate would like to work with the academic deans and other administrators in the upcoming year to create a better survey instrument. We'd like to consider ways to improve the faculty response rate, including taking a look at survey methodology. We will also consider an every-other-year model for doing the evaluations.

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Evaluation of administrators is an opportunity that faculty at other institutions have worked hard to achieve. We should not take it for granted and we should work to make it a fair and useful exercise.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was introduced, seconded, and passed. President Saitta adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Margo Espenlaub, Faculty Senate Executive Secretary