

10-29-2004

2004-10-29 Minutes of the Academic Senate

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University of Dayton. Academic Senate, "2004-10-29 Minutes of the Academic Senate" (2004). *Academic Senate Minutes*. Paper 59.
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APPROVED

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON
DAYTON, OHIO
MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

October 29, 2004
Kennedy Union West Ballroom

Presiding: Dr. John Rapp

Senators Present: Bickford, Biers, Buchino, Courte, Dandaneau, Darrow, Doyle, Fisher, Gauder, Gerla, Gorton, Hartley, Hayes, Ilg, Lewis, Meyers, Morton, Mullins, Roecker-Phelps, Schuman, Sucher, Thiemmes, Thompson, Yungblut

Guests: Hughes, Schwartz, Untener, Westendorf

1. Opening Prayer: Pamela Thimmes began the meeting with a prayer.
2. Roll Call: Twenty-five of thirty-nine Senators were present.
3. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of September 24, 2004, were approved.
4. Announcements: The next Academic Senate meeting will be November 12, which is also the budget meeting. Budget information will be provided in advance; this meeting is open to all.
5. Participation in May Commencement Short of Required Credits, I-04-05

Dave Biers, on behalf of the Academic Policies Committee, presented Senate Document I-04-05 to the Academic Senate for a vote. The action is consultative.

This proposal would allow for students to participate in May commencement when they are short seven credit hours or less than the required number of credit hours for graduation.

Comment: This policy takes the power away from the Provost and gives it instead to the four Deans, allowing for case-by-case decisions. Is it fair to everyone? Example: An Honors student in Engineering is short 18 hours in May after four years here. Is this policy fair to someone who worked so hard?

Answer: That's why this policy allows for Dean's discretion. The Deans talk about changes to make sure of the fairness in implementing this kind of policy. It also takes an element of trust in that the Deans will handle these cases in the best spirit. The Associate Deans have discussed this matter as well and worked on the policy prior to this meeting.

Comment: Concern that this policy leaves too much open to abuse.

Q: How many people does this policy affect?

A: About 20-30 annually in the College.

The ritual of graduation ought to mean something, concern about devaluing the ceremony.

Concern about the UD Arena capacity during the May graduation. Now getting close, anything more than 40 students could be problematic.

Seven credit hours is generous. Anything more than that is a disservice to students who have enough credits to graduate.

Q: Doesn't this policy pose a problem with the push for academic excellence?

A: It's a balance of priorities. It is also a nod to the deletion of August graduation.

It was noted that Dean Morton abstained at the APC subcommittee vote.

Yes: 20

No: 2

Abstain: 0

6. Faculty Maternity Leave Policy, I-04-06

Harry Gerla, on behalf of the Faculty Affairs Committee, presented Senate Document I-04-06 to the Academic Senate for a vote. The action is consultative.

The University does not currently have a maternity leave policy, which has resulted in disparate treatment by departments and is an impediment for recruiting. The policy provides for a period of leave beyond the "medical leave" for the mother as documented by a physician and it also establishes guidelines for release from teaching duties associated with maternity leave.

It should be noted that faculty members who have babies between May 15 and July 15 and who are on 9-month contracts are unable to take advantage of this policy. There are legal complications since teaching faculty are not under contract and it is not possible to use only part of a leave. This issue was brought up during FAC discussions, but in the best interest of moving forward on the policy, the committee chose not to address this issue at this time. This policy will be up for review in 2 years.

This leave also does not address paternity leave or adoption. The FAC recognizes that these aspects are also important. However, given that the maternity issue has been under discussion by the FAC for the last five years, it was time to move forward.

Q: Why does this policy not cover the summer months? Don't our benefits apply during the summer?

A: Health insurance coverage is 12 months; it is a continuous process.

Q: Is release from duty the point of the policy? No duty during the summer?

A: The spirit of the policy is to avoid disruption for the students.

Correction: Contracted time is August 16, not August 15.

Q: Why the 30-day notification? Wouldn't the situation be obvious?

A: Taken from other leave policies.

Yes: 25

No: 0

Abstain: 0

7. Executive Committee of the Academic Senate Report

John Rapp outlined some of the issues that ECAS has been working on this past month.

A. Classroom issues: There are questions about who "owns" classroom space and equipment. There are consultants working with Rick Perales and Beth Keyes about space on campus. Joe Untener is also dealing with classroom issues in preparation for the 2nd floor renovation of Miriam Hall in Fall 2005.

B. NSSE: Joe Untener, Bob Brecha and Jim Biddle are trying to identify action items as they review the NSSE results.

C. Alcohol Awareness: ECAS has asked for additional feedback from Pat Donnelly and Scott Markland about ways faculty can address the issue. The idea of a dry campus, as suggested at the last Academic Senate meeting, has been tabled.

D. Bias-Related Incident Team (BRIT): The FAC has reviewed the draft policy. It will be sharing its concerns about due process and academic freedom with the people who drafted the original policy. Revisions will be suggested.

E. Vision 2010 Statement: The Provost wants the support of the Academic Senate. Fred Pestello will talk about it more at the December Academic Senate meeting.

Q: Will there be any rewrites of the current draft?

A: Possibly. The Provost is open to suggestions.

F. The Bells: to ring or not?: The Executive Committee of the Academic Senate is not interested in revisiting this issue.

Q: What was the source of the issue?

A: The Academic Policies Committee.

Comment: A class sampling found that 65 of 75 students want the bells back; students say that profs abuse the time. There is also a difference among clock times in the buildings.

Student: We have asked Facilities to put clocks and crosses in every single classroom on campus.

ADDENDUM: A poem by Herb Martin for the occasion.

what a pity.
Because

"The bells are ringing for me and my gal"

O Mary O Martha O Mary ring dem bells.

The Bells of St. Mary . . .

alas and alack

Herb. Martin

8. Reports from the Educational Leadership Council

ECAS members had concerns about a couple issues: how University budgeting is done and faculty involvement in decision-making.

Budget: Fred Pestello reviewed the budgeting process with ECAS. The University is in excellent financial health, but in the next few years the current target markets are facing population declines. Enrollment Management is looking into new markets. Budgeting is done incrementally. Surplus decisions are made annually, with the Provost receiving a share of the surplus after allotments for the President. In general, budgeting is transparent—anyone who wants to see the budget is free to request a copy.

Faculty engagement: The faculty voice in decision making seems to be more in the form of dissemination rather than discussion. There are fewer and fewer faculty reps on key decision-making bodies. We are not doing well engaging our colleagues. How might we do a better job of engaging the faculty?

Comment: Let the faculty know about matters electronically. Problem is the delete key, too many groups on campus or else buried on the facstaff listserv. We need access to groups or ability to create lists, which is only available to those with certain administrative privileges.

Comment: UD is tuition-driven, but cheaper. Competitors are state schools, needing to change market strategy, go national. If UD takes a national marketing approach, why go to UD? In this way the Vision 2010 becomes more important, needing to change image.

UD aspires to be transformative, Catholic Marianist. Need to do this, not many other options.

Need more faculty involved in decision-making, not just "elite" faculty; would include those in General Education and Cluster bases.

Send AAUP and Academic Senate minutes campus wide.

If you have any more ideas about increasing effective faculty engagement, please send your ideas to Laura Yungblut.

The budget data for the November faculty meeting will be distributed prior to November 12.

Q: When will the \$1 million debt in IT be retired?

A: It will be done in 2007, which the system will then need upgrading and replacement.

9. Standing Committee Reports

Faculty Affairs Committee: Harry Gerla reported for the FAC. The committee is reviewing the proper use of student evaluations in faculty evaluations. This is a Faculty Board request. Current research indicates that a negative correlation between student evaluations of faculty and classroom rigor.

Academic Policies Committee: Dave Biers reported for the APC. The committee is working on thematic clusters. A review of Pat Johnson's report found that, while it was good, it did not address questions raised from the 2002 review. An open-ended question survey will be sent to Deans and department chairs.

Student Academic Policies Committee: Nancy Buchino reported for the SAPC. The committee will be working this semester on the following issues: BRIT, Honor Code, Evening class schedules, Student evaluations, and the Bells.

Calendar Committee: Steve Dandaneau reported that the committee has two new members, Mary Morton and Joe Saliba, and might have two new students as well. This group will explore possible shifts in scheduling paradigms, which could be a serious undertaking.

The meeting adjourned at 4.15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Heidi Gauder, Secretary of the Academic Senate.