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2004-09-24 Minutes of the Academic Senate

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APPROVED

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON
DAYTON, OHIO
MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

September 24, 2004
Kennedy Union Ballroom

Presiding: Dr. John Rapp

Senators Present: Apmann, Bickford, Biddle, Biers, Buchino, Chen, Corte, Dandaneau, Darrow, Doyle, Fisher, Forkin, Gauder, Gerla, Gravier, Grunenwald, Hallinan, Hardie, Hartley, Hayes, Lewis, Meyers, Morton, Mullins, Pestello, Roecker-Phelps, Saliba, Schuman, Sucher, Watras, Yungblut

1. Opening Prayer: Nancy Buchino began the meeting with a prayer.
2. Roll Call: Thirty of thirty-nine Senators were present.
3. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of April 23, 2004, were approved with minor changes.
4. Announcements

John Rapp welcomed Dr. Mary Morton, the new Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, and Libby Forkin, new Graduate student representative. The new student Senators were also introduced.

5. Executive Committee of the Academic Senate Report

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

- A. Bias-Related Incident Team (BRIT): ECAS has been briefed about the proposed policy concerning bias-related incidents. This policy is in effect while it is being reviewed and one of its primary purposes is to outline the response mechanisms for dealing with such incidents. The Faculty Affairs Committee of the Academic Senate will be reviewing the document as it relates to questions of academic freedom and how response team members are appointed.
- B. November 12 budget meeting: Since the November budget meeting tends to be a “data dump,” it can be difficult to read, digest and ask questions about the material during the meeting. John is working with Tom Burkhardt to distribute budget information prior to the meeting.

- C. Enrollment Management recruiting strategies: ECAS met with Robert Johnson, who discussed Enrollment Management's plans to increase the applicant pool from 8,000 to 12,000, an increase of 50%. In about 2008 or so, there will be a demographic downturn in the state of Ohio, home to the majority of University of Dayton students. The whole campus will be affected by this strategy, especially in terms of campus visits. We will need to plan for this possibility.
- D. NSSE Results: Joe Untener summarized some of the findings from the National Survey of Student Engagement.
- E. Classroom issues: Next week ECAS will be meeting with the registrar to discuss this topic.
- F. Alcohol Coalition Taskforce: Patrick Donnelly and Scott Markland presented the results of the 2004 Alcohol Survey to ECAS earlier this month.

John Rapp asked the Senate to consider the following questions and invited feedback:

1. What if the University of Dayton became an alcohol-free campus?
2. What if the Pub were shut down?

Q: Why?

A: Because these actions would make a statement, we want to send the right message about alcohol on campus.

Student: Is Facilities Management aware of the Pub suggestion?

Q: What does it mean to be a dry campus?

A: We mean that there would be no alcohol at faculty events, dinners, alumni gatherings on campus. This action would underscore the idea of faculty responsibility. Faculty are modeling behavior; they are making a statement by setting an example for undergraduate students.

Q: Is there any evidence that a dry campus leads to less drinking?

Student: Students are not going to care if faculty do or do not drink. Students don't really know about alcohol being served at faculty events.

Q: How far would a "dry campus" extend?

Comment: Prohibition is not helpful. More work could be done in the classroom. What kind of workload are we giving the students? Are they really academically challenged?

Comment: The point here should be, "What can we do to reduce the alcohol problem on campus?" What about alcohol at sporting events? I think that sends a worse message than faculty events.

Q: Should we be more concerned about underage drinking? What about the legal ramifications for the University about underage drinking?

6. Standing Committee Reports

Faculty Affairs Committee: Harry Gerla reported for the FAC. The committee is reviewing the proposed faculty maternity leave policy. This policy would allow for a salary continuation and would “regularize” standards across the Schools and the College. The committee met with Sheila Hassell Hughes and Beth Schwartz about the policy.

Academic Policies Committee: Dave Biers reported for the APC. The committee will be reviewing 3 issues this semester:

- a. Walking in Commencement when short the necessary credit hours. The committee is in agreement on students being able to walk short, but they are still working on details related to where students may finish the credit hours and by when. The committee hopes to have a proposal ready for voting by the next Senate meeting.

Comment: It seems unfair for summer loads: students can possibly walk when they are short 7 credit hours, but coop students, who typically manage 15 credit hours in the summer, cannot walk.

This policy only applies to May graduations. Also, the more credits a student is short, the more open to problems for students not even finishing.

SGA also discussed this matter last year and approved the 7 credit hours as the cutoff number.

- b. Assessment of thematic clusters. Dean Morton has approved the idea of assessing thematic clusters. Dave will be working the new chair of the General Education Committee; there will likely be a subcommittee formed to begin the assessment.
- c. Classroom space. The APC will be looking into issues associated with classroom space.

Comment: A campus space survey will be conducted this year and will include classrooms; it will be administered by Deb Bickford and Facilities.

APC will coordinate efforts with the people working on the survey.

Q: Will they be talking to people who use classroom spaces?

A: Yes, a representative group of faculty will be contacted.

Student Academic Policies Committee: Nancy Buchino reported for the SAPC. The committee will be working this semester to draft a University Honor Code. Different Schools have different codes, looking to create a campus wide standard.

Calendar Committee: Steve Dandaneau reported that this year the committee will be looking at the idea of “taking back Fridays.” The group is currently gathering data from the Registrar. The Calendar Committee will also be reviewing Summer Term scheduling. Steve

thanked Linda Hartley, Dave Biers and Patrick Donnelly for their work while he was out during Winter Term, 2004.

7. Small Group Discussions on Vision 2010:

The Academic Senate broke into small groups for the rest of the meeting to discuss components of Vision 2010.

Fred Pestello noted that it had been 18 months since an ELC subgroup was charged with developing the framework for a new Vision. It has been shaped by the Provost's Council, select administrators, plus select Academic Senate members. We are looking for candid, direct feedback. In addition to today's small group discussions, additional discussions are happening across campus; there are meetings scheduled with groups of tenured faculty as well as groups of tenure-track faculty.

The Senate discussed small group findings. The general consensus was that the Vision statement is far away from a final draft, that it is too generic especially in regards to how goals are implemented.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

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