

Memorandum

To: Faculty and Librarians

From: J. Burke, Executive Secretary, Faculty Senate

Date: March 3, 1997

Re: Faculty Senate Minutes, March 3, 1997

The Faculty Senate Meeting was called to order on Monday, March 3rd at 3:40pm in O'Leary 222. The following Senators were in attendance:

John Catalozzi, Education; William Phelan, Education; James Sheff, Chemical & Nuclear Eng.; John Ting, Civil Eng; Bodo Reinisch, Electrical Eng; David Wunsch, Electrical Eng; John McKelliget, Mechanical Eng; Robert Parkin, Mechanical Eng; Carol Barry, Plastics Eng; Laura Punnett, Work Environment; Michael Ellenbecker, Work Environment; Robert Nicolosi, Clinical Lab Science; Vincent Pivnicny, Health; Sheila Perrault, Nursing; Connie Seymour, Physical Therapy; Michael Carter, Economics; Charles Ryan, English; Peter Blewett, History; Jonathan Liebowitz, History; Michael Jones, Legal Studies; Robert Innis, Philosophy; Hai B. Pho, Political Science; Jon Hellstedt, Psychology; Joseph Waterman, Psychology; Levon Chorbajian, Sociology; Giampiero Pecelli, Computer Science; Dan S. Golomb, Earth Science; Thomas Kudzma, Mathematics; James Graham-Eagle, Mathematics; Mary Beth Ruskai, Mathematics; George Chabot, Physics; Arthur Mittler, Physics; Charles Feeney, Accounting; Riaz Khan, OMMIS; Philip Moss, Policy and Planning; John Ogasapian, Academic Studies; Kay Roberts, Music Performance

Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 3:40PM. There was no objection to altering the agenda in order to allow Vice President Botman to speak as the first item of business.

I. Senate Guest. Vice President Botman.

Vice President Botman introduced herself noting that prior to her appointment as University Vice President for Academic Affairs she was a tenured member of the Political Science Department at the College of the Holy Cross. She assured the Senate that because of this background she brings to her new position the perspective and core values of an educator and scholar. She commented on the challenge of engaging faculty from five different campuses. She emphasized that President Bulger cares deeply about the work that faculty does, about teaching, about learning, and about the success of this institution. She referred to President Bulger's visits to high schools across the commonwealth, and the "University Faculty Outreach Program". Vice President Botman noted that there are common themes and concerns across the university system. One of these is general education. She emphasized that there is no intention to mandate a common template for the entire University. The real question is what should our students be able to do and what should our students know.

A common issue raised on all campuses is the role of the Board of Higher Education.

Vice President Botman has been meeting regularly with her counterpart on the Board of

Higher Education. These meetings have been productive, and although there are times when positions differ there is a common goal to best serve the students of the commonwealth. She reported on an initiative from the Intercampus Council regarding a voluntary faculty exchange program between campuses. It is hoped that the program will be up and running next fall and be beneficial to all involved. In concluding her remarks Vice President Botman stated that the President's office wants to be accessible to faculty and to support the work of the faculty. She also affirmed her support for the importance of faculty participation in University governance.

Vice President Botman then invited questions from members of the Senate.

In response to a question from Professor Waterman regarding General Education Requirements she restated that each campus is having discussions about General Education and that there is no effort to force uniformity on the campuses. Regarding the question of uniformity of grades and credits across the campuses she indicated that the issue should be raised and discussed by the Provosts. Professor Liebowitz addressed the issue of library resources. Vice President Botman noted President Bulger's commitment to Libraries. She noted that librarians from across the system meet monthly, and that there is currently a bond bill in the Governor's office for funding of Libraries. Professor Ogasapian stated that our need is for books and journals. Vice President Botman responded that the bond bill is not for books and journals, which is a fiscal issue that is campus based. Professor Ruskai suggested that the librarians need to meet with the faculty in order to understand faculty needs. Vice President Botman agreed and suggested that the senate could organize a meeting. Professor Pivnicny asked about faculty involvement in the strategic planning process. Vice President Botman cautioned against the micro-managing of the campuses by the President's office, and indicated that there are functions and responsibilities appropriate to the President's office and functions and responsibilities appropriate to the Chancellor's office. In response to Professor Wunsch's suggestion that the University establish a law school so that the graduates of that school might ultimately find their way into the legislature and increase support for the University Vice President Botman noted that there are currently about 40 members of the legislature who are UMASS graduates. The newly appointed Education Chair on the house side is a graduate of UMASS. The Chair of the Way and Means Committee on the Senate side is a UMASS graduate. She also commented that recent legislative budgets were favorable for the University and that the President's office has worked hard to encourage members of the legislature to look favorably upon the University. Professor Reinisch asked for a clarification of the relationship of HEC to the University system. Vice President Botman responded that HEC has been renamed the Board of Higher Education . The Board of Higher Education has authority over tuition, approves or denies new degree programs, and can mandate programs. The legislation creating the University was not well written consequently there are many gray areas, however questions of initiating and terminating employment are the responsibility of the Board of Trustees.

In response to a question from Professor Waterman regarding admissions requirements Vice President Botman indicated that the requirements are standard across the University. Vice President Botman concluded by indicating that she appreciated the opportunity to address the Senate and that she is happy to follow up at any time.

II. Announcements

Senate President Nicolosi made the following announcements: (1) Senate Elections. The Executive Secretary has sent information to all members of the faculty and to all department chairs regarding the Senate election process. Please encourage your colleagues to participate keeping in mind that elections should be completed by Friday, April 4th. (2) Senate Standing committees. After the Senate election process has been completed information will be sent to all faculty regarding Senate Standing Committees encouraging faculty to participate. Faculty who are presently members of Senate Standing Committees should inform their Committee chair if they wish to continue serving. If they would like to serve on another standing committee they should inform the Executive Secretary.

III. Approval of Minutes.

The Minutes of the February 3, 1997 meeting of the Faculty Senate were unanimously accepted as presented.

IV. Reports on Meetings

1. Board of Trustees. Professor Phelan, Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees commented that he reported in a draft format at the February Senate meeting on the previous Board of Trustees Meeting. There was a small addition to that report, which was distributed to Senators with the meeting agenda. There were no questions.

2. Executive Committee. Senate President Nicolosi reported that Professor Burke's appointment as Executive Secretary will expire next semester. At the February 18th meeting of the Executive Committee a motion was made and seconded and unanimously voted to recommend the re- appointment of Professor Burke as Executive Secretary of the Faculty Senate upon completion of her current term of office.

RESOLUTION The Faculty Senate approves the re-appointment of Professor Janet Burke as Executive Secretary of the Faculty Senate.

The resolution was seconded and unanimously supported.

V. Senate Standing Committees

1. Academic Governance. Professor Jones reported that at the April Senate meeting, the committee in conjunction with the Workload Reduction Committee will recommend a By-laws revision so that the course reductions for the Senate President and Executive Secretary are stated in the By-laws. At last week's Executive Committee meeting with Chancellor Hogan, the Chancellor indicated that he supports this. A By-laws revision regarding this will be presented at the April meeting of the Senate, to be voted on in May.

Professor Ruskai indicated that there may be a problem with this. She indicated that the original By-Laws did not include a specific statement about the reduction because the MTA would not permit it.

Professor Ruskai asked why a By-Laws revision was necessary. Professor Burke explained that while the Senate President has always had a one course reduction per

semester, and the Executive Secretary has always had a two course reduction per semester, there have been many occasions when administrative support for these reductions have been last minute, making it very difficult for the departments involved to proceed in an orderly fashion.

Professor Sheff suggested that the Senate continue to operate as it has and negotiate with the union to obtain their support rather than have a confrontation with the union on this issue.

Professor Jones agreed that this was a good idea and indicated that perhaps the Chancellor's office would execute a letter stating the current situation and the administration's willingness to continue to fund these reductions for Senate business. Professor Jones indicated that he would take the suggestion to the committee.

2. Graduate Policy and Affairs. Professor Parkin presented the following two resolutions from the committee.

RESOLUTION The Faculty Senate recommends the approval of a Graduate Certificate in Communications Engineering offered by the Department of Electrical Engineering.

DISCUSSION

Professor Reinisch asked whether certificate programs need approval by the Senate. Professor Parkin indicated that the question has not really been resolved. He also indicated that the program will be offered thru Continuing Education.

VOTE YES 33 NO 1 ABSTAIN 2

RESOLUTION The Faculty Senate recommends the approval of a Graduate Certificate in Stochastic Systems offered by the Department of Electrical Engineering.

DISCUSSION

It was explained that a Stochastic system is a random process. Professor Ruskai asked why the certificate was being offered by the Electrical Engineering Department rather than the Mathematics Department, which has experts in this field on its faculty. Professor Rome responded that the program is being offered by the Electrical Engineering Department because the certificate program involves application of stochastic systems to systems engineering, and that the courses are already part of the EE curriculum.

Professor Ruskai suggested that the certificate should have a different title and that students should have a background in probability and statistics. Professor Rome responded that the students all will have a background in probability and statistics.

Professor Innis call the question. Professor Ruskai stated that she would like the motion tabled. It was pointed out however, that the question had been called.

VOTE ON CALLING THE QUESTION

YES 25 NO 8 ABSTAIN 1

VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION

YES 27 NO 6 ABSTAIN 2

3. Undergraduate Policy Committee. Professor Mittler presented the following resolutions from the committee. He announced that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 6th at 2:30PM in Olney 521.

RESOLUTION The Faculty Senate recommends the following: Course withdrawal through the 40th class day be changed to course withdrawal through the 50th class day. (ref. page IV of the 'yellow pages' in the Schedule of Classes - Second Semester 1996-97).

DISCUSSION Professor Mittler indicated that this change would not hold for graduate courses. Professor Kudzman argued against the resolution. He stated that in his opinion the current 40 day period is too long and that to increase it to 50 days would contribute to a continued erosion of responsibility on the part of the student to meet minimal requirements. In response to a question from professor Michael Jones regarding student input on this issue, the Executive Secretary indicated that student government has delegated a representative to the Faculty Senate and that this individual receives all Senate mailings and materials, and thus was informed about the resolution. Professor Innis and Professor Liebowitz stated that they favor this lengthier period. It was pointed out that this change would not change the date by which students must be evaluated.

VOTE YES 22 NO 6 ABSTAIN 4

Professor Gil Brown who chairs the General Education Committee presented the second resolution. The resolution was presented on an overhead with minor modifications (in bold type) suggested by the committee.

RESOLUTION The Faculty Senate recommends the following procedures for approval of courses satisfying the General Education requirements: A cognizant group will be established to approve courses in each of the A-H requirements. Each group will consist of at least two persons with first-order cognate knowledge of the area.

These persons will be appointed by the chairperson of the Undergraduate Policy Committee (of the Faculty Senate) in consultation with the appropriate Dean(s) and department head(s).

The following is a list of General Education requirements and the corresponding appropriate Dean(s) and department head(s).

**Please note that the four entries in bold type reflect changes to the document from its original submission on the meeting agenda.

Requirements.....	College(s).....	DEPT(S)/Disciplines.....
....		
A: Aesthetics	Fine Arts, Arts & Sciences	Any Department Philosophy, Languages, Art

	(H&SS)	History
B: Behavior and Social Sciences	Arts & Sciences (H & SS)	Economics, Psychology, Sociology, Political Science
C: College Writing	Arts & Sciences (H & SS)	English
D: Historical Studies	Arts & Sciences (H & SS)	History
E: Literature	Arts & Sciences (H & SS)	Languages, English
F: Mathematics	Arts & Sciences (S)	Mathematics
G: Science & Technology	Arts & Sciences (S), Engineering Health Professions	Any Department
H: Values, Concepts, and Choice	Arts & Sciences (H & SS)	Philosophy

A faculty member may appeal a decision made by the General Education Subcommittee, concerning the approval of a course offered to meet the requirements for General Education, to the Undergraduate Policy Committee.

DISCUSSION

Professor Brown presented the historical perspective including the relationship between the original Core and General Education courses. A process was established for getting general education courses into the catalogue. This proposal will be the mechanism for courses getting into the catalogue as general education courses. He pointed out that there is an appeals process built into this proposal. Professor Brown noted that the committee does not intend to go backwards and look at courses already approved.

This proposal is for the future. However, this new listing will make it possible to view all the courses in a particular area in a much easier format.

Department Heads will have the draft before courses go in the registration booklet so that faculty can check for errors.

There was a discussion of the entries in the Department/ Discipline column especially as it relates to the behavioral and social sciences. Professor Brown responded that the committee discussed this at length and that the key word is "cognate". Professor Moss argued that faculty in interdisciplinary depts should be able to be on the committee. Professor Brown agreed pointing out that the word "discipline" allowed this.

Professor Siegel, Senate Parliamentarian indicated that there seemed to be an internal contradiction in the resolution. The resolution first refers to a "Cognizant group" and later to "the general education subcommittee". In addition he stated that it appears that the Senate may be giving away some of its power by this resolution since there is nothing in the resolution about decisions coming back to the Senate. It was pointed out that indeed the "cognizant group" will approve courses.

Professor Blewett reminded the Senate of its history on this issue. He stated that the current general education requirements were passed about two years ago. At that time the Senate decided that there should not be a supervisory group. If there was an argument about a course it could be presented to the general education committee. Adopting this resolution will get us back into old difficulties. He stated that the current system is working and we should stay with it. Namely, the department decides whether the course meets the appropriate requirement and submits the course to the registra with the appropriate designation.

Professor Innis indicated that there are several problems that are interwoven. First there is the allocation of resources so that we can know how many students will need space in general education courses; Secondly general education courses are open to all students in the university, however some colleges have offered courses that are restricted to their students alone. He suggested that we need a referee. We need a mechanism to adjudicate the appropriateness of certain types of courses. Professor Blewett responded that the current mechanism does this.

Professor Ruskai questioned whether the Senate still had a quorum. A count was taken. It was pointed out that the Senate lacks a quorum, therefor discussion can continue, but no vote can be taken.

Senate President Nicolosi pointed out that since no action can be taken on the resolution, therefor the status quo reigns.

Professor Brown indicated that it is not clear what the status quo is.

Professor Siegel, Senate parliamentarian stated that although he did not know the history on this issue it was his sense that the Senate, two years ago delegated to the General Education Sub Committee a fair amount of authority to do this in some way.

The committee needs to keep the Senate informed about how it intends to do its business, but does not need Senate approval. Anyone can challenge that authority or the manner in which the committee does its business, but until such time as someone objects the committee can make its own rules and keep the Senate informed.

4. Research and Development Professor Reinisch announced that next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Monday at 1:30PM in Ball 301 . The committee will discuss the limited number of TAs.

5. Academic Resources. No committee report.

6. Budget and Priorities. No committee report.

Professor Parkin announced that the Graduate Policy and Affairs Committee will hold an Open meeting on Monday, March 10th at 4:00PM in Weed 100. The committee will discuss the proposed Masters Degree and Graduate Certificate in Regional Economic and Social Development. The committee will also discuss a program option in Music Education.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15PM.