

## **Faculty Senate Minutes**

### **March 11, 2002**

**Present:** Ostrom (chair), Kline, Bahar, Cooney, Bartanen, Tullis, Wilson, Droge, Balaam, Porter, Jackson, McGruder, Hanson, and Hummel-Berry.

**Guests:** Meisberger, Wimberger, Smithers, Rocchi, Warning, Benard, Barry, Moore, DF. Smith, Nagy, Orlin, Mehlhaff, Veles-Quinones.

**Recognition:** The chair recognized David Bahar (ASUPS president) for his service to the committee. He will be replaced by Ben Shelton, the incoming president, who could not attend the meeting.

#### **PO'd:**

McGruder spoke from a prepared statement about the condition of South Hall. A large number of water leaks are demoralizing the faculty, students, and threaten to cast a bad light on prospective OT-PT students.

#### **Forum Announcement:**

Droge announced an upcoming all campus forum on race and encourage all to announce it to their classes and attend.

#### **Faculty-Trustee Report:**

Sarah Moore reported to the Senate on progress that had been made between the select Faculty Committee and the Board of Trustees over proposed revisions on the Faculty code. According to her, three big issues remain to be dealt with. 1) Appendix A, which should be the easiest to fix. She suggested that the definition of Faculty would be set in chapter 1 and the rest of the code would be made consistent with that. 2) Hiring practices--the PSC would deal with the language for hiring. This allows for changes in procedure without having to revise the code each time. 3) Evaluations: evaluatees would be given more feedback in the process so as not to wait until the end of the process to deal with potential problems in the process.

#### **Study Abroad:**

A general discussion ensued about a number of issues surrounding the Study Abroad programs on campus. Bill Barry went over two documents: the first that discussed the philosophy, scope, criteria for admission, and administration of the Study Abroad program (5/15/78) and a second taken from the Bulletin (pp. 74-78). Study abroad was intended to be a demanding opportunity for students to be immersed in another culture. Barry went on to discuss two categories of study-travel programs connected to UPS: affiliated programs (programs students receive residency credit for and where their financial aid can be applied) and approved programs (on which students do not receive residency credit or UPS financial aid) but where the university has to vouch for the student nonetheless. Approved programs have proliferated in numbers (especially in the 1990s) to allow more students the opportunity to study and travel abroad.

The question was asked how these programs get approval. Cooney and Barry outlined the process. The administration requires a budget and checks with departments and programs that may or may not have conflicting interests with the program. Often faculty rules for class can conflict with student interests. Cooney stated that different competing interests shape administration policy.

Peter Wimberger passed around an outline of different questions he wanted to raise about the current policies. He said he was motivated by Biology students who felt that the current system did not adequately meet their needs. He suggested that a Faculty Task Force be created to deal with a number of these issues; e.g., how and who assesses the programs; what are the financial, programmatic, and geographical considerations that go into the decision-making process; how to deal with administrative burdens, etc. Wimberger suggested that policies were not as transparent

as suggested in the Logger (Bulletin). Meisberger noted that she had a meeting to deal with a number of these issues. She liked Peter's questions and found them to be helpful.

Cooney stated that the Curriculum committee used to have the authority to deal with these issues but passed them on to the Associate Deans office. The old Study Abroad committee was eliminated. It required a huge commitment of time and work. In the 80s ILACA was UPS' lead program. UPS didn't have much stake in study abroad. In the 90s a restructuring occurred and new programs became available to students. Has become an administrative headache. Sometime as much as 75% of student revenue of a single student's tuition can "go out the door" for certain programs. The university has invested some \$280,000 in these programs. Without a large budget surplus, it is getting harder to overlook this expenditure.

McGruder asked about Africa programs. Meisberger suggested she check the web.

Smithers suggests that a task force would be helpful.

Warning asked about favoritism and transparency. Some faculty felt humiliated on the Study-Abroad committee, that often the committee was merely a rubber stamp for decisions that had already been made.

Barry said the process had been reviewed last year.

Bartanen said she did not oppose a new task force, but said the processes had to protect the university, that some students had been denied for good reason. They did not properly prepare or follow through on their applications, etc. A student had to be medivaced and then flown home. We need to make sure that students are prepared and ready.

Cooney--many questions about framing Study-Abroad, its purpose and expectations. Why support it? Is preparation adequate. Its record of accomplishment? What should be the adequate GPA cutoff? A review should be taken seriously.

Rocchi suggested that FLIA was heavily invested in Study-Abroad. As the program has evolved the university has become the victim of its own success. The faculty don't realize the difference in programs anymore. Many loopholes can't be covered. The system needs to be reevaluated from scratch. The new Core language requirement will effect these issues. A new task force would be a great beginning to deal with many of these issues. The Study-Abroad office has lots to do. Students sometimes wait too long to do their preparatory work. He suggested that we might want to gather some data on student views.

Meisberger suggested some evaluations similar to faculty evaluations. Use real data.

Bahar--wants faculty to reaffirm this.

Barry suggested that there were many structural problems here. The approved programs would be allowed to compete with the affiliated ones.

Winberger suggested that we examine the issue of competition between the programs.

Veles-Quinones suggested that the new burst of programs meant more faculty abroad.

Ostrom suggested that the Senate recommend that Task Force be created. Cooney suggested that it study the connection between department curricula and the issue of who would sign off on courses. The administration is not making all the decisions. There is a long list of specific decisions being made. The Task Force should capture a variety of perspectives. It should also bring people in from different offices.

Droge said that he understood that final approval for transfer credit comes after the course is done, not before. Cooney noted that students filled out forms before leaving that implied they would get credit.

Ostrom: will come forward next time with a plan to form a Task Force.

**Parking:**

It was noted (by whom?) that 2 people from Wyatt were upset that there weren't enough parking places. It was noted (by whom?) that there were alternative places at the Fieldhouse. Wilson stated that Security was no longer enforcing parking at that lot.

Cooney: the "old Doug Goodman" won the use of a space for a year, and didn't use it--just squealed on whoever parked in it!

Hanson: Thompson Hall people were not consulted when the lot there became general parking. There is a problem of getting lab materials in and out of the building. Cooney suggested that the Thompson lot needed a 15 minute drop off zone. John Hickey was the man to contact about it. Ostrom will drop him a note.

Tullis suggested that this was a laughable problem? People have to walk 2 blocks? Balaam asked about walking during periods of heavy rainfall? Ostrom asked about enough handicapped parking? Balaam inquired if we should have a faculty lot somewhere in the Wyatt-Thompson vicinity? Wilson suggested there wouldn't be enough student spots.

Cooney referred to the city master plan. It requires the university to have extra spots. The trouble is that they tend to be on the perimeter of the campus to keep the center green. Neighbors often complain about that situation.

Adjournment: 5:15 pm

Respectfully submitted  
Dave Balaam