

**Minutes of Faculty Senate
October 23, 1995**

Present: Nancy Bristow, Alva Butcher, Lynette Chandler, Michael Farmer, Tom Goleeke, Margo Holm, Judith Kay, Grace Kirchner, Terry Mace, Bob Matthews, David Potts, Michel Rocchi, Bryan Smith, Sarah Sloane, Kate Stirling.

Visitor present: Bill Haltom

Minutes of September 18 were approved as submitted.

Announcements:

A special welcome to Michel Rocchi who joined the Senate today.
A reminder that the faculty reception will be held this Friday (10/27/95).

Completion of List of Committee Charges:

Student Life Committee (SLC).

The charges to the SLC engendered considerable discussion. A concern was raised about the possibility of duplication of effort between the SLC and the Diversity Committee, as well as the implied duplication of effort with the Residential Life Task Force and the survey soon to be disseminated by that task force. Some senators suggested that the Diversity Committee works best through other committees. It was noted that the Diversity Committee does not have clear authority for any charges. Bill Haltom, as the chair of the SLC, stated that he has no difficulty working with the Diversity Committee and the Residential Life Task Force. He also stated that the members of the SLC feel an obligation to address the first three of the four charges, based on hours of listening to student concerns.

MSP to accept the recommendations from the SLC for the following charge and to add a matching charge to the Diversity Committee. "To coordinate with the Diversity Committee the interpretation of information about campus climate, with specific attention to campus racial climate: for example, students' interactions with students, faculty, administration, and staff; advising; financial aid; housing; and any other areas of student life in which racially or ethnically differential politics or practices are perceived by some to exist."

MSP to accept the recommendations from the SLC for the following charge, as amended, and to add a matching charge to the Diversity Committee. "To Coordinate with the Diversity Committee in the evaluation of procedures for dealing with complaints about harassment, including but not necessarily limited to racial harassment, ethnic harassment, harassment due to sexual orientation, and harassment of disabled or differently abled."

MSP to accept the recommendations from the SLC for the following charge, as amended. "To conduct focus groups to examine the Orientation Program for New Students, in Spring 1996."

By unanimous consent the fourth charge was dropped. That charge was "Consider ways to streamline the advising process." It was suggested that the charge appropriately belongs in the Academic Standards Committee.

Academic Standards Committee (ASC):

It was pointed out that the fifth charge to the ASC (Committee Charges of 10/12/95), to list a student's ranking in a course next to the letter grade on the transcript, would have significant impact on Information Services. The ASC will need to work with Information Services. Thus the charge was amended as follows.

MSP to accept the two additional charges to the ASC committee, as amended. The charges now read: 5. "Consider policies to combat grade inflation." 6. "Review Integrity and Academic Honesty section of the Logger."

Discussion of Results of Forum on First Year Course:

Kirchner asked the senators what action, if any, should be taken by the Senate based on the forum on the First Year Course of October 2, 1995. Stirling, with others, had drafted a motion for consideration by the Senate.

MSP: The Senate affirms the faculty's responsibility for the curriculum and invites any interested members of the faculty to draft a specific suggestion of a "first year course" for further faculty discussion.

The Context of the Motion, also drafted by Stirling, et al., best expresses the discussion by the senators.

In January of 1995, Dean Potts asked the Curriculum Committee to consider a "first year course." Over the spring semester, the Committee discussed goals for such a course and developed several models for it. Specific recommendations were not sought nor made. A summary of the discussions was sent to the Senate at the end of the year with the suggestion that the Senate bring fuller faculty discussion to the idea of a first year course. On October 9, the Senate sponsored a faculty forum devoted to the topic of a first year course. Sixty-two faculty members attended.

Those in attendance broke into small groups for the first hour, and in the second hour, we met as a whole and summaries of the small group discussions were presented and discussed. The questions and concerns were similar among the small groups. Those issues which dominated the discussion included: the need to consider resource allocation and issues of staffing concomitantly with the conception of a first year course; whether writing would be placed at the center of such a course and, if so, who would teach it and what kinds of training would be made available; whether such a course was needed in our curriculum and what is lacking that this course would theoretically fulfill; whether a "common" course is desirable or feasible; and, what specifically does an "introduction to the liberal arts" mean. To the degree that any one model for a first year course received any endorsement it was the "entrepreneurial" process whereby interested faculty would work within the existing framework and develop new courses designed for the freshmen level. A straw poll was taken to assist in determining the next step for the discussions. The poll elicited a wide variety of comments; however, the majority of faculty in attendance felt that a specific proposal should be brought forth and/or specific problems and goals should be identified before proceeding with any discussions. The motion above speaks to that apparent consensus.

The President has indicated in her memos of 21 September and 18 October that discussion of the first year course will continue at her Sunday afternoon workshop of 29 October.

It was agreed that the Motion and the Context of the Motion should be sent out by e-mail to all faculty, immediately.

Faculty Elections:

A major concern about the recent elections for the Faculty Advancement Committee was raised by Mace. Fourteen percent of the primary ballots were disqualified, because the directions for the submission of the ballots were not followed. Approximately five percent of those voting in the final ballot have been disqualified.

The problem has been a long-standing one with the election process. It was agreed that the executive committee would address the problem.

Academic Calendar:

The Senate affirmed the academic calendar for 1996-1997 as submitted by the Curriculum Committee, by declining to review the calendar.

Hard Copy of Minutes:

MSP that Grace make a formal request that senators receive, from the Office of the Associate Deans, hard copies of the minutes of the Senate, standing committees and ad hoc committees.

Adjournment: The Senate adjourned at 5:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette S. Chandler