

MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
4 February 1997

Chairperson D. Eidam called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. in Chryst Hall, Room 210. All departmental senators attended except those from the Counseling and Human Development and Sociology and Anthropology Departments. P. Leahy attended for student senate and J. Davis for *The Snapper*.

Minutes

Senate approved the 3 December 1996 meeting minutes with the following correction: on page 4129, Joint Senate Conference Committee, add the following words to the end of the first sentence: "writing a report on the four year contract proposal."

Reports

Chairperson's Report

Chairperson D. Eidam announced that senator Y. Soong is not available to serve in the senate this semester because he is teaching a class. Also the alternates from the Earth Science Department will not be available because they are covering classes for R. DeSouza. A. Lathrop is now the senator from Earth Sciences. In Psychology, senator T. Woo was called to Korea for an emergency and is on emergency leave. B. Grosh and, on occasion, J. Smedley will represent the Psychology Department.

Eidam represents senate on The Medal Fund Management Board. The Board has written an updated and streamlined constitution. Eidam also represents senate on the Commencement Committee. The Committee recommended that there no longer be an August commencement. Undergraduates graduating in the summer will be allowed to participate in the May graduation ceremonies only. Graduate students planning to graduate in the Summer will participate in December only.

A candidate has come forth for the vacant position on the Academic Policies Committee - Nonschool. Last semester senate declared the position vacant. Senate decided to hold the election at this point. K. Backels was nominated and elected by a unanimous vote to fill the vacant position.

Eidam discussed the rules of debate for today's agenda items: In fairness to senators, no senator may speak n times until other senators who wish to speak have spoken (n - 1) times. Senators are recognized first before nonsenators.

Student Senate President

Student Senate President P. Leahy said student senate had it first meeting 30 January 1997. It will fill two positions at its next meeting. It discussed finding more activities for students on weekends. In an effort to better serve the student body, student senate will survey students this week concerning issues that students want discussed this semester. The next meeting will be February 13.

Administrative Officers

President

President J. Caputo said beginnings of semesters are upbeat times. He thought MU was breathing a collective sigh of relief because the collective bargaining agreement is tentatively settled. Ratification

awaits the faculty. Caputo reported some fairly good news. Governor T. Ridge gave his state of the commonwealth address this morning. Ridge proposed a 2 percent increase in our budget. In addition Ridge said nothing negative about public education. MU learned that the Governor's office has as promised released the funds for the Myers Hall renovation. The construction of the new science building and the renovation of Myers will proceed jointly.

At the close of the Fall semester, MU received a \$400,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to renovate the old Roddy facilities. The grant is the largest single amount that MU has ever received. The MU Capital Campaign is going very well. MU will probably raise the \$13 million that it proposed at the beginning of the campaign earlier than planned. MU may exceed its goals.

Vice President for Academic Affairs

Vice President for Academic Affairs F. McNairy informed senators that President Caputo has appointed a technology vision task force comprised of faculty and administrative members to draft a technology program for MU. They have prepared a vision statement in general language that tells where we hope to be as an institution. That will be presented to SPARC in February or March. They are also working on a plan that incorporates potential costs and how to address the costs. As soon as there is more information on their progress, MU will share the information with senate.

Associate Provost for Academic Administration

Associate Provost for Academic Administration J. Stager said the Spring enrollment is about on target. He will present the final figures at a future senate meeting. Stager asked senate if the plus or minus grades apply to graduate courses. It was never explicitly discussed in senate. There are no D grades for graduate students. The rest of the new grading rules would apply to graduate students.

MU will print the Governance Manual one more time this Fall. It has not printed it since 1994. The WEB governance manual is not ready yet. MU needs to update the manual so that it contain the latest information. All of the C or better rules need to be checked.

Committee Reports

Undergraduate Course and Program Review Committee

Undergraduate Course and Program Review Committee chairperson, R. Wismer, said the committee met last week and approved two four credit Computer Science courses:

CSCI 450: Artificial Intelligence, a new four credit undergraduate course to be first offered in Fall 1997.

CSCI 456: Robotics and Computer Vision, a new four credit undergraduate course to be first offered in Fall 1997.

In addition Wismer presented as an agenda item a new program proposal:

Associate of Technology in Industrial Technology Academic Standards Committee

Academic Standards Committee chairperson, J. Piperberg, said the committee met 21 and 22 January 1997 and summarized the results of the meeting. He will report more details at a future senate meeting. For the Fall semester there were 112 dismissed students. 65 of those students appealed their dismissal. 40 of those appeals were approved, 25 were denied. Students appealed 8 of the denied appeals to higher

authority and 5 denied decisions were reversed.

Since Fall 1990 the number of dismissals has been remarkably consistent. The lowest number dismissed during the period has been 105. The highest is 120. The same goes for the number of students appealing their dismissal; about half appeal. Usually about one-third of the appeals are denied. The Spring semester is more erratic.

The committee wants to give each case adequate time. Therefore it normally runs late as presently constituted. Piperberg has spoken with Registrar M. Gonzalez. It would be reasonable to raise the size of the committee given the fact that in recent elections more candidates ran than there were openings. With a larger committee, the work load could be divided in thirds instead of in half. The committee could give students adequate attention for each case and not run late. Piperberg proposed an enlarged Academic Standards Committee as an agenda item for the next meeting. He will suggest how many members to add at the next meeting. Chairperson D. Eidam noted that the committee has seven members serving overlapping three year terms.

Joint Senate Conference Committee

Joint Senate Conference Committee chairperson, J. Piperberg, said the committee is in the process of distributing drafts of the four year contract to relevant people. He can not say more at this time.

University Theme Committee

University Theme Committee chairperson, J. Piperberg, said the committee has received one proposed theme as of today. The faculty will receive in the campus mail a call for a theme. They must reply by February 17, 1997. All proposals must be in written form. If there are any questions, phone Piperberg. After the 17th, the committee will meet, look at the proposals, schedule meetings with the proposers, and at a meeting in April propose a theme.

Academic Policies Committee

Academic Policies Committee chairperson, K. Bookmiller, said that she had trouble arranging a meeting time for the committee. The committee will meet on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 2:30 to 4:30 PM. The first committee meeting will be February 20, 1997. One topic will concern governance manual issues.

Cooperative Education Committee

Cooperative Education Committee chairperson, W. Dorman, said the committee is busy working on its self study program. They are working on their mission statement. At the end of the semester a new handbook will come out.

Proposed Courses

Senate approved two courses:

CSCI 435: Compiler Construction, a new four credit hour non General Education Course to be first offered in the Spring 1997.

PHIL 327: Philosophy in Film, a new three credit hour, G1 General Education Label course to be first offered in the Summer of 1997.

Business

Faculty Senate Elections

Senate needed to elect its officers: a chairperson, chairperson pro tempore, and secretary for one year terms (1997-1998) beginning in September 1997. Chairperson D. Eidam relinquished his chair to the chairperson pro tempore for the election of the chairperson. Chairperson pro tempore, J. Piperberg, called for nominations for chairperson. A C. McLeod/W. Dorman motion to reelect D. Eidam passed. With Eidam as chairperson, senate reelected J. Piperberg as chairperson pro tempore.

Senator M. Margolis announced that he was not a candidate for secretary for the 1997-1998 year. Eidam said that the election of a faculty senate secretary would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Report of the General Education Review Committee

The General Education Review Committee reported to senate on the report of the General Education Task Force of 19 November 1996 (see Attachment A). Senator and committee chairperson C. Stameshkin began the discussion. She said the first paragraph explains what the committee sees as the source of the problem. The final recommendation is a general recommendation. She said to make changes now would be counterproductive because of changes to be made in the future, for example, for Middle States. The curriculum ought to be connected with our goals and objectives in a direct way. If we changed now, it is likely that we would have to change again in a year or two. Stameshkin said she was not making a motion; only telling what the consensus of her committee was.

Senator C. McLeod addressed one issue that is pointed at in the report. It ties in with the English Department memo. From McLeod's point of view as a member of the task force, he was taken aback by the memo from the English Department. He can not recall any time during the discussions of the task force that the task force was recommending any sort of wholesale migration of advanced writing courses in the English Department to anywhere else. He believes that this is a misunderstanding. Language that ended up in the report that the task force submitted to senate was in essence the identical language that is currently in the general education document. There was no hint that anything be done to advanced writing.

After a long discussion with many senators speaking to the issue, a D. Hutchens/B. Nakhai motion to limit debate until 5:30 PM passed. At 5:30 senate agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting and the agenda.

Program Approvals - Options and Program Changes

Senator B. Nakhai spoke for the BUAD Option in International Business (see the discussion in the 3 December 1996 minutes, page 4131). At the 3 December 1996 meeting, senate postponed action on a motion to amend the option requirements to require students to take at least one course outside the Business Administration Department. After some discussion a motion to move the question passed and forced a vote on the amendment. Senate defeated the motion to amend. Senate was back to the original motion. By unanimous consent senate agree to stay five minutes beyond the 5:45 PM closing time. Senate voted on the original motion and by voice vote defeated the motion. A call for division resulted in a vote of 7 for and 13 against. The motion was defeated.

Senate voted in favor of the Revision of the Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science and the Changes in Policies for Majors to Complete a BA in Political Science.

Senate adjourned at 5:50 PM. The next meeting will be Tuesday, 4 March 1997, from 4:05 - 5:45 p.m. in Chryst 210.

Respectfully submitted,
Marvin Margolis, Secretary
Faculty Senate

Action Summary

4 February 1997

1. Course and Program Approvals

Program Changes

Senate approved the Revision of the Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science and the Changes in Policies for Majors to Complete a BA in Political Science.

Course Approvals

CSCI 435: Compiler Construction, a new four credit hour non General Education Course to be first offered in the Spring 1997.

PHIL 327: Philosophy in Film, a new three credit hour, G1 General Education Label course to be first offered in the Summer of 1997.

2. Election of a Member of the Academic Policies Committee - NonSchool

Senate elected K. Backels to fill a vacant position on the Academic Policies Committee - Nonschool.

3. Election of Faculty Senate Officers

Senate elected D. Eidam for the 1997-1998 academic year as senate chairperson. It elected J. Piperberg as chairperson pro tempore for the 1997-1998 academic year.

Attachment A

Faculty Senate Minutes

4 February 1997

Second Response to Task Force Recommendations by the General Education Review Committee

The position of the GERC is that the general education task force was put in the impossible position of being asked to recommend changes to improve the present general education curriculum without having available a clear and adequate account of the objectives of the system within the university. Without such objectives, there is no reasonably objective way of setting priorities, nor of deciding how to balance the costs and benefits of possible changes.

Over the last couple of months, our committee has had several opportunities to discuss the task force recommendations and we have received considerable input from both individuals and departments. Virtually all of this input has been negative. This second response, therefore, represents the committee's more considered opinion about the recommendations:

A. Overall, we find the recommendations to be premature, and in some cases, ill-considered. The task force does not offer support for its claims that any of these changes will actually save **any** money, which was its original charge. Further, it seems possible that some of these changes might have a **negative impact** on the quality of the general education program, and the committee offers no evidence to the contrary. Neither common senses nor empirical studies back up these recommendations, nor did the task force consult knowledgeable individuals and departments who could have provided them with information they lacked. For example, they did not ascertain the original rationale for C and Q courses, they did not consult the English Department about the rationale for its teaching advanced composition courses, nor did they check the catalogue to test their assumption that all QARC courses are math and computer science courses.

Some of their recommended changes would undoubtedly simplify advising students, in the long run, assuming that they were adopted on a long term basis and not likely to be changed again in the near future. Even these, however, would temporarily make things less simple for advisors, just by virtue of representing changes from the present system.

B. Phase 1:

RECOMMENDATION: The committee is generally opposed to making any immediate changes in the curriculum, other than those which represent continuing already functioning modifications of the curriculum on an ad hoc basis. (Such modifications include deleting the 10 pages of revised prose requirement from "w" courses, premitting students to replace one "p" course with another gen ed course, and permitting up to four required

related courses to count in the gen ed blocks.)

The GERC has been, and will continue working on the task of revising the goals and objectives of general education, as part of the university's move towards outcomes assessment, as mandated by the SSHE and Middle States. Within the next two years, this task must be completed to a significant degree, and will clearly result in a number of recommendations regarding how the general education curriculum should be altered to meet these revised goals and objectives. For this reason, any changes implemented by the faculty and administration in the next year may end up being in conflict with curriculum modifications eventually agreed to as part of the outcomes assessment effort; **any substantial changes made at this point, then, are likely to lead to at least some, and perhaps a significant amount of, wasted effort and money.**

C. Phase 2:

RECOMMENDATION: The committee believes it is especially ill-advised at this point to attempt to tie the hands of those working on modifying the general education curriculum as part of the outcomes based assessment effort. While we have no problems with general guidelines for change being formulated by the task force, faculty senate, administration, or faculty as a whole, it seems premature at this time for us to mandate any specific recommendations, such as "Eliminate labels!" or "Farm out advanced composition courses to departments." What would be in order would be recommendations such as, "Let us find a way that doesn't involve the use of the cumbersome label system?" or "Costs must be considered when recommending curricular changes. We must find ways to reduce the cost of the average general education class."

In conclusion, Millersville University presently lacks the knowledge necessary to make specific recommendations regarding changes in general education. With its completion of the Performance Review of General Education, the GERC has begun the process of obtaining some of the required knowledge, and members of the committee have accumulated some expertise. As reformulating general education objectives and stipulating how our general education curriculum achieves, or fails to achieve these objectives, is precisely the task on which our committee is now working, it stands to reason that it is unrealistic to attempt any real reform of our system, large or small, until this task is complete.

RECOMMENDATION: We recommend voting against the task force recommendations at this time.
