

**Millersville University
Faculty Senate Meeting
October 21, 2003**

The meeting was called to order at 4:09 p.m. All departments were represented except Music.

I. Minutes of October 7, 2003 Faculty Senate Meeting

The minutes were approved as distributed.

II. Report of the Faculty Senate Chairperson

Chairperson Piperberg reported that Bruce Ikenaga who was elected at the last meeting to the Academic Policies Committee will be unable to serve due to scheduling conflicts that he did not foresee. This seat will remain open.

Chairperson Piperberg presented the name of a nominee for an At-Large seat on the Commencement Speaker Committee, Donna Topping. A Wismer/Luek motion to close the nominations for this seat and direct the Secretary to cast a ballot in favor of the nominee passed without dissent.

Senator Heintzelman, APSCUF Faculty Senate representative, reported that Dr. Smith, the APSCUF president, advised the Faculty Senate not to take further action in discussion of a policy regarding the decision of students to honor the picket lines in the event of a strike. There should be enough time to have these discussions if a strike becomes imminent. Also, the APSCUF president advised that any policy coming from the Faculty Senate would also have to go to state APSCUF for approval.

Chairperson Piperberg reported that as a member of the subcommittee of the Inaugural Committee charged with organizing student, faculty and alumni presentations during President McNairy's inauguration celebration (April 2 and 3, 2004), he would like to collect ideas from the faculty on potential events. It is hoped that over the two-day period, we will be able to schedule a variety of events highlighting the achievements of faculty, alumni and students. The ideas could be general or specific in nature. He asks that suggestions for such events should be sent to him via e-mail.

III. Report of the Student Senate President

Kristin Albright, the Student Senate President reported that elections were conducted to fill the seats that were not filled in the first election.

The Student Senate sponsored a float in the Homecoming Parade that took place on October 18, 2003.

IV. Report of the Graduate Student Association – No Report.

V. Report of Administrative Officers

Acting Provost Shane

Acting Provost Shane reported that the ACE program is going through some revisions. A proposal will be forwarded to Senate members soon, probably before the November 4 meeting.

Executive Assistant to the President Phillips

Winter Session registration has begun. In one day, all of the distance learning courses were closed. Senator Luek thanked Dr. Phillips for implementing the use of TAP numbers for all students.

VI. Standing Committees

Senator Joe Lynch of the Admissions, Advisement and Student Affairs Committee announced that he has offered the committee's services to appropriate individuals and groups around campus.

VII. Special Committees – No report.

VIII. Proposed Courses and Programs - No proposals in the queue.

IX. Faculty Emeritus – None

X. Transfer of Credit Policy for Graduate Studies

The policy as distributed was approved. {see attachment to the October 7, 2003, Minutes}

XI. Revision of the Proposed Undergraduate Incomplete Grade Policy

Several senators had some questions and comments about the policy, which were clarified. The policy {see attachment to October 7, 2003, Minutes} was passed with dissents from Senators Blazer, McCotter, Yalda and Anna.

XII. Discussion of Teacher/Educator of the Year Award

After a lengthy discussion, amendments to the document were passed by the following motions.

- Kevorkian/Blazer motion – Change to *all regular full-time faculty and permanent part time faculty are eligible for this award* — passed.

- Schaffer/Bookmiller motion – Change to *include advisement, counseling and mentoring* - (refer to pg. 2, paragraph 1 of the Draft document) — passed.
- Blazer/Schaffer motion – Change to *the Senate President will present an initial slate of names for the selection committee (alumni, faculty and students) by the spring semester. Additional nominations will be taken by the end of the semester. The Committee will consist of no more than 7 people, with no more than two people representing each division (the three schools and non-school).* — passed.
- Wismer/ motion – Change to *the selection committee will forward their decisions to the Faculty Senate by the last meeting in March* — passed
- Yalda/Miller motion – To approve the document as amended was passed with a dissent from Senator Kerper.

A final draft will be distributed at a later date.

Senator Kerper presented a memo prepared by the Department of Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education. The memo explained the department's reasons for deciding not to participate in this award {see Attachment #1}

XIII. Other/New Business – None.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

RespectfullySubmitted,

Elba I. Rohena
Senate Secretary

Action Summary

Donna Topping was nominated for an At-Large seat on the Commencement Speaker Committee. A Wismer/Luek motion to close nominations for this seat and direct the Secretary to cast a ballot in her favor passed without dissent.

The Transfer of Credit Policy for Graduate Studies was approved as distributed.

The revision of the proposed Undergraduate Incomplete Grade Policy was passed with dissents from Senators Blazer, McCotter, Yalda and Anna.

Amendments to the Educator of the Year Award passed and the proposal was approved.

Attachment #1

TO: Joel Piperberg, Chair, Faculty Senate

FROM: Elementary and Early Childhood Education Department

DATE: October 20, 2003

RE: Reconsideration of and withdrawal from the Faculty Senate Teaching Award

The Elementary and Early Childhood Education Department has decided, without dissent, that its faculty members will not permit their names to be considered for the Faculty Senate Teaching Award nor will they accept this award, if granted. The Department has taken this action because it believes the following:

1. This award has the potential to create division within the faculty and to damage morale. As a department, we value the collaborative environment that we have created and will not participate in an award that may erode this viable work context. Experience tells us that the identification of one faculty member as superior leads to backbiting, lobbying and vendettas that undermine collegiality.
2. As professionals whose lines of inquiry focus on teaching, we are very conscious of the difficulty in defining “effective” or “outstanding” teaching. Therefore, we believe that it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to identify objectively and fairly the one person in a school who merits the award.
3. It is unethical for our faculty to participate in an award that fosters competition and values extrinsic motivation. Since our programs espouse collaboration and intrinsic motivation to achieve academic excellence, faculty participation in the award is tantamount to academic dishonesty. We strongly believe that we must model what we want our students to learn.
4. The award encourages faculty to “exploit a professional relationship for personal gain or advantage,” a clear violation of Pennsylvania’s Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators. The code states, “in this Commonwealth, a Code of Professional Practice and Conduct (Code) for certificated educators is required by statute and violation of specified sections of the Code may constitute a basis for public or private reprimand The Professional Standards and Practices Commission (PSPC) was charged by the act of December 12, 1973 (P. L. 397, No. 141) (24 P. S. § § 12-1251 - 12-1268), known as the Teacher Certification Law, with adopting a Code by July 1, 1991. See 24 P. S. § 12-1255(a)(10)” (PA Dept. of Education, 2003). As licensed educators, we vehemently object to Faculty Senate’s action that places us in direct conflict with state law.

As a Department intimately involved in the pursuit of teaching excellence, we request that Faculty Senate reconsider its decision to establish a teaching award on the Millersville University campus.

Pennsylvania Department of Education. (2003). Pennsylvania’s Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators. Retrieved October 20, 2003, from <http://www.teaching.state.pa.us/teaching/cwp/view.asp?a=15&Q=76982&teachingNav=|5474|>