

Faculty Senate Minutes
March 15, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. All departments were in attendance except Computer Science and Nursing.

I. Minutes of the February 15, 2005 and March 1, 2005 Meetings

The Minutes for the February 15, 2005 and March 1, 2005 meetings were approved as distributed.

II. Report of the Faculty Senate Chairperson

The date for the June Senate Meeting will be announced at the next Senate meeting in April.

III. Report of the Student Senate President

Elections for the Student Senate President will take place at the end of March. Student Senate President Albright also reported that the Student Senate is working on selecting the person who will receive the Person of the Year Award for this academic year. Stephanie Good was selected as the Student Senator of the Month of February. The fund raising activities for the Tsunami Relief Fund sponsored by various student organizations on campus are going well.

IV. Report of the Graduate Student Organization

No report

V. Report of the Administrative Officers

Provost Prabhu

Provost Prabhu clarified that use of the snow make-up days is a “faculty prerogative”. He advised the faculty that if they wish to schedule classes during April 12 and 13, to do it at the same times that the cancelled classes were originally scheduled for.

VI. Reports of the Faculty Senate Standing Committees

First Reading

UCPRC: New Courses

COMM 380 – Digital Media Writing. Effective: Fall 2005

Second Reading

GCPRC: New Courses

PSYC 537 Ethics and Professional Practice. Effective: Summer 2005. *Approved.*

EDFN 621 Developing Principles of Teaching in Urban Schools. Effective: Fall 2005. *Approved.*

EDFN 622 Essential Strategies for the Urban Classroom. Effective: Spring 2006. *Approved.*

GCPRC: Change in Program

M.S. in Clinical Psychology – addition of PSYC 537 Ethics and Professional Practice as an option for students seeking professional licensure. Effective: Summer 2005. *Approved.*

VII. Reports of the Faculty Senate Special Committees

Academic Policies Committee

The revised Incomplete Policy Proposal was passed.

General Education Review Committee

Senator Fenwick presented Section 1: University Structure and Governance Faculty Participation in University Governance; Contract Committees, Judicial Committee and Amending Procedures Faculty Senate/Curriculum Committee Guidelines for membership and functions of the General Education Review Committee and Academic Outcomes Assessment Committee.

For the guidelines for the General Education Review Committee, the proposed procedures were passed as amended by a Schaeffer/Rosenthal motion. The amendment was to delete section 2. e. until further discussion.

For the Academic Outcomes Assessment Committee, the proposed procedures were passed as amended by a Fenwick/Borger-Greco motion. The amendment was to change section 1.d. to read Assistant Provost for Planning and Assessment instead of Provost.

VIII. Faculty Emeritus

None

IX. Old Business

General Education Task Force Recommendations

Dr. Foster Clark, Chair of the General Education Review Committee distributed a document {see Attachment #1} with a summary of the some of the most relevant themes from the discussion forums on the general education reform. He also distributed and discussed a handout with the revised principles for General Education. He encouraged the Senators to engage their respective departments in conversation on the purpose, objectives and principles for General Education. This will prepare them for the future vote.

Senator Rosenthal reported that the English Department will be passing a letter of support and a motion to postpone the Faculty Vote on the purpose, objectives and principles of General Education. They will be asking to postpone the vote until the fall 2005.

The logistic of the vote was discussed. Questions such as who is eligible to vote and who would count the votes were discussed. An Ad Hoc Committee was appointed to count the votes. Senator Rohena, Senator Blazer, and Senator Borger-Greco volunteered to be part of the Committee. A sample of the ballot will be sent to Senators for their consideration.

In other old business, Chairperson Kerper indicated that Dr. Buchanan is willing to chair the University Theme Committee for the remainder of the academic year. Mowery/Borger-Greco motion passed to close nominations and to direct the secretary to cast one vote for this nominee. Dr. Buchanan was elected.

The Student Athletic Proposal mentioned by Dr. Kevorkian at the last meeting is being re-evaluated by the proposer.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Elba I. Rohena
Secretary

Attachment #1

Gen Ed Task Force (3/15/05)

The following is the revised set of principles that we propose to be voted on by faculty in April.

• **Principles that guide the process of reform:**

- Reform must reflect what the faculty believe in and can teach with passion, commitment, and intentionality.
- Change should be incremental and based on campus-wide dialogue. We should maintain and build on current MU strengths.
- Reform must be well understood by as many members of the University community as possible.
- Increased emphasis on Gen Ed must be accompanied by increased administrative and resource support.
- Reform should be informed by meaningful evaluation.

• **Reform of Gen Ed at MU should be characterized by:**

Principle 1: Clear Purpose, that is well understood by all members of the university community and that is consistent with the MU mission and the specific learning needs of MU students.

Principle 2: Intentional Alignment of the objectives, curricular structure, and assessment with the purpose of Gen Ed, the mission of this University, and the learning needs of our students.

Principle 3: Coherence and connections between Gen Ed and majors.

Principle 4 (revised): Intellectual Richness, setting appropriately high expectations for students' engagement that develop as students progress through their academic programs.

Principle 5: Academic Community Reaching beyond the Classroom, fostering interactions between and among students, faculty, and the larger University community.

Principle 6 (new): Simplicity and flexibility, promoting ease of understanding and greater choice in meeting the Gen Ed requirements.

