

**Faculty Senate Minutes
September 6, 2005**

The meeting was called to order at 4:12 p.m. All departments were in attendance except Communications & Theater and Computer Science.

I. Minutes of the July 18, 2005 meeting

The minutes were amended as follows. In the comments from Provost Prabhu, “and tenure” should be struck to indicate that the November 1 submission deadline applies to promotion applications only and not tenure. The minutes of the July 18, 2005 meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved as amended.

The following corrections were noted for the minutes of the April 19, 2005 meeting which were previously approved. In the report of the Student Senate President, the phrase “Faculty of the Year Award” should read “Person of the Year Award.” In the Elections section, the nominee for secretary should read “Aimee Miller” rather than “Amy Miller.”

II. Report of the Faculty Senate Chairperson

Dr. Rosenthal, acting as Chairperson Pro Tempore in Dr. Börger-Greco’s absence, welcomed the Senate back and conducted introductions.

III. Report of the Student Senate President

Student President Fayth Balsam indicated that the Student Senate currently has only 16 of 48 Senators elected and is taking measures to fill the remaining seats.

IV. Report of the Graduate Student Organization

No Report.

V. Report of the Administrative Officers

President McNairy

President McNairy reported the following: You might recall that last year I announced the beginning of two related processes. The first was the Visioning Process led by Dr. Alan Guskin, distinguished university professor and President Emeritus of Antioch University. Over 120 faculty, staff and external stakeholders participated in those discussions. The second was convening a Task Force on developing a planning model for the University.

By October 1, 2005, the University Planning Council will be appointed. Its primary function is to provide overall coordination and synthesis of the University's planning activities and to advise the President on related matters. Most immediately, however, they will be asked to finalize the Vision Statement for the University. Faculty, staff and students will be asked to provide feedback to the Council as it finalizes this statement.

Provost Prabhu

Provost Prabhu highlighted several issues relevant to the Millersville response to Hurricane Katrina. He announced that SSHE, including Millersville, will allow Pennsylvania residents affected by university closures due to the hurricane to enroll in classes free of tuition and fees. He stressed that the goal is to handle these requests as efficiently as possible to maximize the benefit to students. Faculty were also encouraged to be supportive of students or faculty who might be request a leave to volunteer services. In related discussion, it was noted that a number of ways to respond were being organized on campus and that students should consider service opportunities over winter or spring breaks when relief agencies will be prepared for their involvement. Dr. Philips noted specifically that a number of students in the National Guard have been dispatched and that faculty can find the Military Leave Policy on the Registrar's website.

Provost Prabhu also emphasized that faculty members applying for promotion should be reminded that materials submitted for application will not be available for modification after the November 1 deadline. Applicants should garner feedback from department chairs and evaluation committees in time to make changes prior to November 1. A workshop regarding the promotion process will be held September 16, 2005 at 3:00 pm in the University Room of Gordiner.

Vice President for Student Affairs Thomas

Vice President for Student Affairs Thomas reported that construction of the Shenk's Lane dorms is complete, allowing housing of 200 students in place of Landes Hall. He also noted the Biemesderfer Stadium upgrades to the track and playing surface are finished and will allow use for football, soccer, field hockey, lacrosse and intramural sports. Dr. Saunders commented that windows in Landes Hall are open, creating unsafe access to the building. Vice President Thomas will address this concern.

He also commented on student efforts to collect funds to hurricane relief and noted that the university will be identifying groups that will also be collecting material donations.

Executive Assistant to the President Phillips

Executive Assistant to the President Phillips reported that Millersville purposely enrolled 100 fewer freshmen this year to avoid overtaxing available resources. She noted that when admissions were closed in late April, the incoming students represented a higher academic profile than in the past as well as increased diversity.

Interim Assistant Provost Redmond

Interim Assistant Provost Redmond from the Division of Academic Support Programs and Learning Services shared that they are reviewing persistence of students. He noted that retention for white males has dropped and should be addressed. He also mentioned that AIM staff is working to identify students with concerns earlier to allow intervention that will increase student success, particularly for students of color.

VI. Reports of the Faculty Senate Standing Committees

UCPRC

First Readings

(1) CHANGE IN COURSES/CURRICULA

Changes to the Music minor

The proposed changes to the Music minor would reduce the required credits from 23 to 18, replace high level theoretical courses with upper division electives and eliminate the audition requirement for entrance into the program. These changes will align the required credits with other university-approved minors and should make the minor more attractive to students.

(2) NEW UNDERGRADUATE COURSE

PHIL 345 – Humanity and Environment, 3 credits, Perspectives (P) course

(3) NEW UNDERGRADUATE COURSE

EDFN 398 – Urban Immersion Seminar, 3 credits, Perspectives (P) course

(4) CHANGE IN COURSES/CURRICULA

Requirements for the BSE in Chemistry dropped from 128 credits to 126 credits.

The proposed change to the BSE CHEM major is requested as a replacement to the proposal previously passed by Senate and reflects a similar proposal submitted by Biology. The change will bring the major requirements to 126 credits as mandated by PASSHE effective September 1, 2005. The requested proposal is to waive the Perspectives (P) requirement due to the multidisciplinary nature of the Chemistry degree with Required Related courses in Biology, Physics and Mathematics. This waiver would allow both Environmental Chemistry and Biochemistry to be retained as Major Courses to appropriately prepare BSE CHEM students for professional examinations and to meet Act 354, stating that professional content should be equivalent to the major degree. It was noted that Foreign Languages waives the P requirement for studies abroad and that Music annually requests a waiver to count a Major Course as a P course.

Second Readings

(1) NEW UNDERGRADUATE COURSE

GEOG 248 – Geography of Africa, 3 credits, a G3 General Education course. The proposal passed without dissent.

(2) NEW UNDERGRADUATE COURSE

HIST 381 – History of West Africa to 1800, 3 credits, a G3 General Education and Writing-Across-the-Curriculum (W) course. The proposal passed without dissent.

VII. Reports of the Faculty Senate Special Committees

General Education Task Force

Dr. Foster-Clark requested that Senate establish a schedule for reviewing the Principles, Purposes and Objectives set forth by the General Education Task Force. By including the Principles and Purposes on the September 20th agenda and the Objectives on the October 4th and November 1st agendas, he noted that faculty other than Senators could plan to attend these meetings to participate in the conversations regarding General Education.

VIII. Faculty Emeritus

George/Wismer motion – Dr. Geraldine M. Benson was granted the honorary title of Professor of Library Sciences Emerita. [see Attachment #1]

IX. Committee Elections

Nominations were accepted for open Senate committee positions. Dr. Philips stressed the need to appoint persons to Admissions, Advisement and Student Affairs to address how to assess the new writing component of the SAT for student admissions.

A Hopkins/White motion to postpone elections until a call for nominations and listing of open positions could be distributed to Senators was passed without dissent.

X. Old Business

None

Respectfully Submitted,

Aimee L. Miller
Secretary of the Senate

Attachment #1

TO: Millersville University Faculty Senate

FROM: Library Department

RE: Resolution for Emeritus Status for Assistant Professor Geraldine M. Benson

DATE: September 1, 2005

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Geraldine M. Benson, Assistant Professor of Librarianship, retired in June 2005 after 29 years of service to Millersville University; and

WHEREAS Professor Benson served as a valued faculty colleague in the Library Department's Serials, Government Documents and Reference units, and as a liaison to the University's Art and Government Departments and to its Latino Studies program; and

WHEREAS Professor Benson directed Ganser Library's Government Documents unit, supervising the library's participation in the Federal Depository Library Program and providing government information to the university community and to residents of the 16th Congressional District; and

WHEREAS Professor Benson was a founding member and active participant in the collaborative initiatives of DOMA-14, Documents and Maps Librarians of the State System of Higher Education, and co-author of the group's successful Library Services and Technology Act grant proposal; and

WHEREAS Professor Benson provided formal and informal instruction in the use of the Library's collections and services to University and community patrons as well as to classes in Social Work, Art, English, and Government; and

WHEREAS Professor Benson enhanced access to government publications by establishing a contract for cataloging services with a commercial vendor; and

WHEREAS Professor Benson contributed to continuing scholarship in library science through presentations about the Library's liaison program at regional and national conferences; and

WHEREAS Professor Benson served as a member of numerous departmental and University committees, most notably the University Cultural Affairs, Academic Standards, Faculty Grants, International Studies, and Commencement Speaker Committees, the Faculty Senate, and APSCUF Representative Council; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That Assistant Professor Geraldine M. Benson be granted the honorary title of Assistant Professor of Librarianship Emerita.