

Faculty Senate Minutes
January 15, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. All departments were in attendance except Interdisciplinary Studies, Mathematics, and Philosophy.

I. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the December 4, 2007 meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved as written.

II. Report of the Faculty Senate Chairperson

Dr. Börger-Greco welcomed faculty back to the spring semester.

III. Report of the Student Senate President

Student Senate President Terezoni stated that student organization allocation packets are due January 30. In response to a question, she noted that the faculty advisor, president and treasurer of each organization should have received information. She also pointed out that any group may contact the Student Senate extension for more information.

IV. Report of the Graduate Student Association

Donna Randolph was introduced as the new GSA Representative. She is a graduate student in Educational Foundations.

V. Report of the Administrative Officers

President

President McNairy welcomed faculty to the spring semester and commented that the loss of Dr. Steven Centola from the English Department reminds us all of the preciousness of life. She reported that she and several students attended a recent Board of Governors meeting where approval was given for moving forward with the proposed bond financing of SMC renovations. Related costs will be added to student fees in the next couple years. Dr. McNairy also announced the appointment of Dr. Aminta Hawkins Breaux as the Vice President of Student Affairs effective March 1.

Dr. McNairy reminded Senate of the federal Spellings Plan aimed at improving the quality and availability of higher education. She highlighted the recommendation for making standardized information about universities available online to allow students to compare schools. Dr. McNairy noted that the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) has initiated an effort to develop voluntary reporting of such information ahead of federal stipulations. Millersville is supporting this effort by

providing data already being gathered. She pointed out that this self-evaluation process is consistent with what Middle States will be looking for as well. A question was raised about the applicability to graduate studies. The response was that this was primarily focused on the undergraduate level.

Provost

Provost Prabhu also expressed sadness at the loss of Dr. Centola. He reminded faculty to consider how each individual on campus plays an important role as we recognize the contributions Dr. Centola made to the Millersville community.

Dr. Prabhu indicated that AASCU has developed the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA) website to provide quick reference information about universities and already has some schools up online. He noted that graduation rates, retention rates, a cost calculator, and school size are part of the reporting. Dr. Prabhu also noted that a critical component geared towards presenting student experiences and perceptions still needs to be fleshed out. He noted that the most important aspect will be to effectively report on student learning outcomes using external tools like the College Learning Assessment (CLA) test. He also highlighted that we will be able to present information about our own unique value-added characteristics.

Dr. Prabhu announced that the tradition of a spring convocation is being revived with a focus on an issue of national importance in academia. He encouraged the faculty to attend the January 24th talk and dinner, noting that the deadline for responding would be extended to Friday, January 18. He also highlighted that the Civic and Community Engagement and Research Project (CCERP) has scheduled a related 2-day conference following the convocation. A suggestion was made that university-wide events be scheduled on an alternating basis instead of always on Thursdays.

Associate Provost for Academic Administration

Associate Provost Burns reported that Middle States self study is underway with the steering committee and chairs for working groups in place. He reminded faculty that many participants are needed for the working groups. He also announced that the Middle States liaison is scheduled to visit on April 11.

Assistant Vice President for Institutional Assessment and Planning

Assistant Vice President Shibley noted that the mission statement revision from the University Planning Council will be coming out soon for faculty feedback.

Senator Igyor thanked the administration for acknowledging Dr. Centola's passing and contributions to the university.

VI. Reports of the Faculty Senate Standing Committees

Bylaws

Senator A. Miller distributed a proposal from the Bylaws Committee to move the faculty committee election process to the spring semester. [see Attachment #1] In order to hold regular elections at the last two spring Senate meetings, it will also be necessary to change the Faculty Senate Bylaws to specify that departmental senator elections be completed by April 1 rather than May 31. A third regular election and the at-large election are proposed for the first Senate meeting in the fall.

Academic Standards Committee

Senator Sikora reported on statistics for academic appeals and approvals at the January hearings. He also commented that having alternate members for ASC worked well.

GCPRC

Senator Mowrey highlighted the upcoming Graduate Open House to be held January 23 in the Lyle Parlors. She encouraged faculty to inform upper-level students of this opportunity to learn about MU graduate programs.

VII. Reports of the Faculty Senate Special Committees

None

VIII. Proposed Courses and Programs

(1) CHANGE IN UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM

ITEC 251, Print Media Systems. Proposal to add ART 244 or COMM 201 as prerequisite options for ITEC 251 to accommodate art or communication students was approved without dissent.

IX. Faculty Emeritus

An Anna/Luek motion that Dr. Keith A. Lauderbach be granted the honorary title of Professor of Industry and Technology Emeritus was approved without dissent. [see Attachment #2]

A question was raised about the deadline for emeritus requests for this year. Resolutions should be approved by Faculty Senate no later than the April 1 meeting to meet the Council of Trustees schedule.

X. Other/New Business

Nominees were accepted for seats vacated during the fall semester. A Miller/Mollah-Hardy motion to close nominations and elected the unopposed candidate was approved without dissent.

Senator Mowrey commented that a number of faculty had contacted her about the calendar for next spring. She noted that the dates for starting and ending the semester and breaks could not be changed but ideas about how to accommodate courses meeting for all instructional hours were welcome. Dr. Prabhu clarified that this is not making up a holiday but finding additional hours for classes missed because of the holiday. Concern was expressed about how common calendar restrictions were disrupting the academic environment of the campus. Dr. Prabhu noted that we were accommodated on our request that the winter break be a minimum of four weeks but that graduation will be one week earlier in spring 2009. Given the shorter overall length of the semester dictated by the common calendar, the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday and spring break, classes meeting on Monday will have less instructional time available next spring. Dr. McNairy responded that some PASSHE schools argued strongly for a common calendar because of collaborative programs. Discussion was held regarding whether there was hope that the calendar would become more flexible with a new chancellor coming in. It was noted that the Board of Governors is likely more focused on finding a politically savvy candidate with strong fund-raising goals than someone wanting to work with faculty on academic agendas. Dr. McNairy encouraged individual faculty to consider periodically attending the BOG meetings to express academic concerns.

Dr. Prabhu emphasized that the administration is primarily concerned about being able to provide facility accommodations for faculty needing to meet classes at alternate times. He noted that faculty members are responsible for making sure that students get the full content of every course. However, he stated that faculty may do this as they see fit. Suggestions like homework assignments and online or asynchronous input that do not require a Saturday meeting or physical classroom space could be effectively used. A question about plans at other PASSHE schools was raised.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aimee L. Miller
Secretary of the Senate

Action Summary:

The minutes of the December 4, 2007 meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved as written.

(1) CHANGE IN UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM

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Attachment #1

MEMO

To: Faculty Senate

From: Bylaws Committee

Date: January 15, 2008

Subject: Spring Committee Elections

Rationale:

Faculty Senate currently holds elections for committee representation beginning at the first Senate meeting each fall. Vacancies filled by at-large members are not acted on until at least the third meeting of the year held in early October. This practice makes it difficult for some committees to begin their work each fall.

Proposal:

To hold regular committee elections at each of the last two Faculty Senate meetings in the spring semester and to hold a third regular election as well as the at-large election for any remaining vacancies at the first meeting in the fall. Committee terms will still run from September to August. All committee governance documents and the Faculty Senate Bylaws will be modified as needed to reflect this change in election timing.

Because eligibility for some committee seats is dependent on Senate membership, it will also be necessary for departments to have identified their senator before these spring elections are held. The Faculty Senate Bylaws will be changed to specify that departmental election of senators be completed by April 1 (currently schedule for April 1 to May 31). The Faculty Senate president will notify departments scheduled to elect a senator by the end of the preceding fall semester.

Attachment #2

TO: Millersville University Faculty Senate
FROM: Department of Industry and Technology
DATE: December 4, 2007
SUBJ: Emeritus Recommendation for Dr. Keith A. Lauderbach

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: Dr. Keith A. Lauderbach, Department of Industry and Technology, retired on May 25, 2007, after 29 years of teaching and service at Millersville University; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Lauderbach served as an effective educator of undergraduate and graduate students in desktop publishing, communication technology, graphic reproduction, digital imaging, architectural and engineering drafting, metals, research and development studies, pedagogy, student teaching, and Macintosh-based educational workshops; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Lauderbach served the department as chair of the Budget, Educational Workshops, and Professional Standards Committees; as a member of the Curriculum and Assessment, Facilities Renovation, Graduate, and several other Committees; and as an advisor to the Industrial Arts Society, Epsilon Pi Tau, and Marauder Graphics; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Lauderbach served as chair of the university Provost Search Committee as well as a contributing member of the Vice President for Finance and Administration Search Committee, the Vice President for Information Technology Search Committee, the Director of Affirmative Action and Human Relations Search Committee, the Associate Provost Search Committee, the Technology Vision Task Force, and the APSCUF Legislative Assembly; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Lauderbach served the community as president of the Susquehanna Litho Club, a member of the Board of Trustees for The Thaddeus Stevens State School of Technology, a member of the Susquehanna Litho Foundation Board of Directors, an advisor to the Pennsylvania Council for College Students in Technology Education, a member of the Manheim Central School District Curriculum Committee, and a team leader of the Appalachia Service Project;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That Dr. Keith A. Lauderbach be granted the honorary title of Professor of Industry and Technology Emeritus.