

Faculty Senate Minutes
Meeting held November 14, 2006
Quorum Present

Notice: These minutes are a summary representation of the meeting.

Janet Melnick

Call to Order

Motion to accept the minutes from October 23rd

October 23rd minutes accepted as correct.

Jen would like to remind all of you that this is being tape-recorded, so please speak into the microphone so that she can hear what you are saying.

Chancellor's Report

Mary-Beth Krogh-Jespersion

Building schematics I sent out, the renderings are down in Dawson 10. Gene Grogan is going to put them on backing so that they will be available for everyone to see. As far as I can tell, from the students, staff, and faculty who have seen them, there has been positive feedback. There have been comments, and some questions that I will share tomorrow with the architects. The next steps now are to refine some of the issues. The president always wants to see these projects and this is a good time, not after the building has been built, and that will be next. Any questions about what you saw? Just to clarify, the renderings are actually in the hallway. We should have a LEAD-certified building, including the landscaping as well as the building. Ok, I want to discuss the current deficit, as John Romano explained it to the Chancellors, and then I want to discuss the new budget model that we'll be under for the next 3 years. And I want to assure you that nothing immediately is going to happen, and we are going to take care of this internally. I want to do this in a simple, uncomplicated way. This is a Penn State issue, not necessarily a campus issue, so just breathe and relax. In spring 2005, the shortfall was 10 million dollars. By the following fall, we went from a 10 mil to a 15 mil shortfall, because of enrollments. By spring of 2006, we went back up to a shortfall of 12 mil. Our spring enrollment did not go down as much in the past, so we were beginning to see the impact of the retention and admissions issues. So, what actions did Penn State take? We had to cut 2% of the permanent budget. For us, that was 156,000 dollars. That left us with an 8mil shortfall. John Romano cut 14% in full-time salaries in his office, which amounted to 1mil. So, as of July 1st 2006, we had a shortfall of 7mil. This year, we cut 1% of the permanent budget across the Commonwealth campus, which amounts to 2 mil. So, we are down to a 5 mil shortfall. This is going to be absorbed. Instead of the rolling 3 semester average, we are switching to a cost-centered model. If we receive 1 mil more in tuition, 70% of that comes back to the campus, and 30% of it will go to the Chancellor's endowment, which is devoted to recruiting students and pays for other scholarships and incentives. If we have a 1mil shortfall, I have to give back 70%. Which direction do you want to go? Are you with me? Making sure our enrollment is up is critical and is a nice incentive because it comes back to the campus immediately. I have heard the rumor that John Romano has said that we need to set aside money. That hasn't

been mandated, but as a Chancellor, I'd have to be stupid if I didn't think about what I should be setting aside, so that we can have a safer landing. Our goal is to stabilize or increase our enrollments. Anything we can do to accomplish that, we should do. Any questions?

John O'Meara

Do we have the numbers related to our increased enrollment this year?

Mary-Beth Krogh-Jespersion

In about a week we'll probably know all the details. It takes them that long to go from the census to the dollars. And then we include the IT Fee, which we split.

Alan Peslak

Does this mean we won't get charged this year?

Mary-Beth Krogh-Jespersion

Right, my opinion is that we are getting a fresh start. Don't quote me on that, and you won't get anyone to say that, this is just my opinion. OK, diversity plan, we're in the process of creating a first draft, and please feel free if you're doing things that contribute to this, please let me know. I also want to announce that my 7th annual Christmas party will be on December 10th 2-5pm and you're all welcome to bring yourself and your families. Thank you.

DAA Report

Richard Kopley

The Fall Open House went really well. We had an excellent Faculty/Staff luncheon. Thank you to Marilee for your presentation on phone use. Also, the Author's Tea at the library went very well. Congratulations to many for their achievements, which I've mentioned in my report. I am asked to mention that the Fall exam schedule is out and let Alison know if there are problems, or congratulate her. We will shortly have a modification to the website that will have a box for campus alerts, so that we will more easily know what's going on. Thanks to the web team. A coming issue, we'll take up with the advising committee, is assessment for advising, and advising for the 5th semester, and the transfer student. Thanks again to Richard and his staff for the Honor's area in the library.

University Senate Report

Dale Holen

We met with John Romano and he was talking about establishing disciplinary communities between the campuses and University Park, because it is important that we maintain ties, but there is no clear way to do that right now.

Mary-Beth Krogh-Jespersion

What is the difference between the University Faculty Senate, University Caucus, and the Commonwealth Caucus?

Dale Holen

University Caucus, on Mon eve, would meet with John Romano, and these are representatives from the commonwealth college, now the University College.

Mary-Beth Krogh-Jespersion

I understand the University Faculty Senate, Dr. Floris is the Chair, and she presents the agenda for the plan of work---do you have a copy of that? Do they discuss that? She gave Academic Leadership Council 10 items from her plan of work, and then set 3 priorities, and I was just wondering if the University Senate had something similar that could be shared with our campus.

Dale Holen

She didn't bring it up at our last meeting, but maybe she's planning on giving it to us on Dec 5th.

Mary-Beth Krogh-Jespersion

The University College has the constitution and is limited in terms of what it reviews.

Dale Holen

It's faculty senators from the university college to meet with John Romano or Sandy Gleason.

Mary-Beth Krogh-Jespersion

And, are there minutes?

Dale Holen

No, not that I know of. It's mostly an opportunity for us to voice our opinion directly about issues that are important to the commonwealth college, and to get together with John Romano.

Janet Melnick

We do not have a Faculty Council Report today, but Pat Hinchey sent out an email regarding the survey and they are compiling the statistics at this point.

Committee on Continuing Education

David Roberts

I'm sitting here thinking to myself that I teach public speaking and I never use a mic. This committee met twice in the past month and Kim updated the committee on what was going on with continuing education. One thing we focused on was a Certificate Program in Spanish for the professions---focusing on Health Care and Law Enforcement. We also discussed Wired Wall Street West, which is a 3-year grant program to duplicate the Wall Street infrastructure in Pennsylvania, in the event of something like 9-11 happening again

and it offers 5 mil per year. We're looking at what this campus can offer. We decided that we are going to ask her if we can look at what is not in this program---culture and leisure activities to complement this program. Also, we were asked to look at the new business building in terms of recruitment opportunities and whether there is going to be publicity or a committee forming to look at preemptory programming.

Bill Bryan

We are also looking into this and there will be more information forthcoming.

New Business

Janet Melnick

A message from Diane Slater in the bookstore to please turn in spring book requests ASAP. This offers significant savings to the students. This will give us time to work out any complications.

Jeff Mallas

Thanks to everyone who responded to the retention efforts we're making. We'd like to invite the new coaches to the Faculty Senate Meetings so that you can get to know them. We've had several new hires, and we're implementing new retention efforts with the coaches. Also, we are looking at the fourth week OPR and referring students to the Learning Center. I'd like to invite you all to the Basketball home games. Any questions?

Janet Melnick

Our next meeting will be Dec 8th and will be sponsored by the Alumni Society, so there will be food, which is an incentive for everyone to come. Anything else?

Dale Holen

Just a suggestion for Marilee---the spam is getting ridiculous.

Marilee Mulvey

There is an incoming and outgoing spam filter. Sometimes the spam flag gets messed up. There is new legislation in the works to deal with this. The skills of the spammers keep evolving and we respond accordingly. There has definitely been an increase in spam overall. We will be getting information out to you on email that is actually dangerous to you.

Dale Holen

Can you send out instructions for setting up the spam filters?

Eva Tettenborn

I use Thunderbird at home, and it works pretty well. I don't know how to hook it up, but it is helpful.

Marilee

There are all sorts of spam products that you can buy. Our issue with those is filtering out messages that are mis-marked as spam. PSU is fairly conservative that way.

Dale Holen

I wanted to make another comment on students who are chatting on laptops during class.

Marilyn Daniels

I've had that also, and I've just told them that they can't do it and to close their laptops.

John O'Meara

Without going too into it, we could conceivably prevent them from doing this by using closed ports.

Marilee

But would you want to turn this off all the time, especially if students are actually taking notes. This is an issue of academic integrity, and we need to encourage students to use good judgment in class.

Marilyn Daniels

I've heard complaints about the hours the cafeteria is open, that it isn't open late enough.

Eva Tettenborn

Yes, the night business students would enjoy being able to get a coffee.

Janet Melnick

I would encourage you to email Gene to extend the hours.

Motion to adjourn

Alan Peslak

Motion

Dale Holen

Second

Meeting Adjourned