

Faculty Senate Minutes
Meeting held March 17, 2006
Quorum Present

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

Durell Johnson (Durell)

Let us observe a moment of silence for Carol Bresnock before we get started.

Thank you.

Apology for getting the agenda out late.

Motion to approve the minutes with the clarification that these are summary minutes, and should not be taken as statements by individuals.

Motion to approve Feb 8 Minutes

Todd Adams (Todd)

Motion

Marilyn Daniels (Marilyn)

Second

Motion to approve Feb 16 Summer Pay Minutes

Marilyn

Motion

Todd

Second

Motion to approve Feb 27 Summer Pay Minutes

Beatriz Rivera-Barnes

Motion

Marilyn

Second

February 2006 minutes accepted as correct.

Durell

2nd Order of Business: Chancellor's Report

Mary-Beth Krogh-Jespersion (Mary-Beth)

First of all, thank you for observing a moment of silence for Carol. And, for some good news, as of 2pm Tuesday we have full funding for the business building, 1.2 million dollars. {clapping}

The plan here, in order to get to the architect selection phase, has to go through the Facilities Resource Committee, which should happen on April 12th. Thanks to everyone who participated. We will have a celebration for the work that they did in achieving this goal. From now until July/August has to do with strategic planning, budget allocation, and performance review. Although these may not seem like parallel processes, and some of these things happen in the summertime when folks aren't around, they are really interrelated processes. The first step is to go through the FAR's process, and the faculty are meeting with Dr. Mahalik now to discuss their professional development, travel.

Parallel to that are the SRDP's, and the staff are going over their salaries, merit increases, development. 'The next step is Tim Bogdon and I go over budget projection and we have projected the remaining of this year, and the next year, and the following year. And then the directors should be working with each of the faculty and staff regarding planning and direction. Then we have a retreat in June where we share our plans. Last year, we included the TLTAC report in the strategic planning report. We also heard from physical plant regarding repairs, and these items can then be included in the budget. After the strategic plan, we go through weeks of budget hearings, and the Chancellor meets with the directors, and we go through approvals, and then we receive campus allocations, and then by September/October everyone has a budget to work on. The best thing to do to get your needs met is to get things on paper and get it to the appropriate director. Any questions?

Fred

If money becomes available by the Sept/Oct time period, does it have to be spent by a specific date?

Mary-Beth

By the Fiscal Year. I expect to get a memo from the Office of Budget Management, telling me how to close down our budget, and then we have two weeks to adjust the budget and then we have auditors come in.

Durell

Next, we have two reports from Student and Enrollment Services. The first one will be Sandy.

Sandy Feather (Sandy)

Twenty-three years ago today I was in Dublin at the St. Patrick's Day parade. Back in the Fall, I started sending you weekly enrollment reports. {showing overhead projection} We are up by 120 applications. We can control that column. We started offers on October 20th. We are up by 182 offers. We are up by 35 deposits. Our critical date is May 1st, which is when our offers turn into deposits. Every University asks for the deposit by May 1st. What are we doing for conversion? 1st thing: Bonnie Urzin calls with congratulations. 2nd: A package goes out 3rd: 2+2 flier goes out from John Romano's office 4th: PAWS brochure goes out---reminding them about financial aid, FTCAP, etc. And, we just got approval to have two current students email students, congratulating them and connecting with them. An invitation went out for the offer reception. On Sunday, April 9, we will be hosting our offer reception.

Mysterious speaker

Why are the number of offers higher than the number of applications?

Sandy Feather (Sandy)

This is a funnel, and after you change from one status to another, you do not carry your status over.

Durell

Thank you, Sandy. The next report is a Retention Study with co-chairs Allison Burns and Brenda Seery.

Brenda Seery (Brenda)

We are working on looking at our retention issues, and the first thing is to look at the data, of who was here in Spring '05 and did not come back in Fall '05 or Spring '06. There are 115 people in that category. A scripted telephone call went out, working with Andrea Dowhauser, who helped us with our survey instrument. 25% have holds, so it may be financial. GPA for this group--29% has 3.0. Our findings are that students have a variety of issues. 45% are suspected transfers. 10% are known transfers-----and predominately these folks are staying in the area. Also, these are 4/5th semester students. Once we have an official report, we will bring it back to the Faculty Senate

Jennifer Nace

What is the official name of this committee?

Brenda

The Retention Fact-finding Committee.

Tina Merli

Do you have the data broken down by major?

Brenda

Yes, right now we have the data broken down by college, and some of these students are in DUS so they haven't chosen a major.

Yvonne Glanville

Are these individuals who registered and didn't show?

Brenda

These are expects. We got rid of the other variables, like if they had graduated.

Jim Klein

These might be folks who simply wanted to change direction.

Marilyn

Is there a way to contact them directly?

Brenda

The interview is very scripted, and has open-ended questions regarding scheduling, financial, and personal.

Gayle Smith

I think it would show good will that we're interested in what happened with them.

Brenda

Yes, if they want to talk to us, and they are asked if they want someone to follow up with them.

Durell

Mike Mahalik is out of town and has passed along the Academic Affairs Report. He did ask that folks send their comments about fall commencement to him by email.
Next order of business: University Faculty Senate Report.

Dick

In some sense, Penn State remains one of the most popular institutions in the country. At Tuesday's senate meeting, Spanier reported that Penn State had somewhere around 90,000 applications. Spanier has approved revision to HR23, particularly as it applies to University College. There will be 3 levels of review: local campus, college, and University P&T committee. At the campus level there will be a core committee, and will have at least two members from the candidates' discipline. This is preferable to what has existed in the past. I spoke about this in a variety of settings and won some/lost some. Any questions?

Norbert

The members of the University College P&T Committee---who will they be?

Dick

I can't comment. All I know about is the Berkowitz ad hoc proposal for temporary structure of how to choose a campus college committee that we are supposed to be voting on today.

The second item to mention is an examination of the HR45 reviews. It seems that the best practice is what we are already doing---folding the 5-year review into the regular FAR. 3rd item---Faculty Benefits Committee has issued the faculty salaries 2005/06 report. There is a URL where you can view this. In an examination of salaries---there is a salary discrepancy between UP and campus assistant and associate salaries, which could largely be made up by the adjustment for summer pay.

Also, I'll remind again about the Berkowitz proposal, which we vote on today. And, the Intrauniversity Relations Committee has issued a report on disciplinary communities. There will be no discipline structure at the college level. The committee recommends two different models: the Soviet model, and the Anarchist model. The Soviet model would produce a department liaison. For the Anarchist model, the campus would have a division committee, with a point person. More on that later.

Norbert

There are several roads that we can take with this today---#1 if we accept this reorganization of the faculty governance, #2 if we are in favor of keeping all commonwealth policies in place, #3 to keep the division structure in place until something else comes along. Is John Romano going to abide by our decision on this?

Dick

I cannot read John Romano's mind, but this report will probably become advisory and John Romano will make his own best judgment.

Durell

Next order of business: Committee Reports, Diversity----Janet?

Janet Melnick (Janet)

We have two programs to finish out the academic year. We have a rescheduled program on Politics in Nigeria on April 13th, and on March 31st Parminder Parmar's program on Friendship, Love, and Marriage in India.

Durell

The first new order of business is the selection of a University College Council Representative. There are a lot ways that we could do this. My recommendation is that we vote for someone separately who has experience with the workings of the University. We don't have to vote on that until these resolutions pass but it was suggested that we begin that process now.

The second new piece of business is a discussion of the snow cancellation policy.

David Byman (Dave)

As you may recall, we had a cancellation in February on a Saturday for a recruitment event, which many of us felt was a mistake. And then we had a cancellation just before a break, which made sense. My feeling is that we can at least provide our input as to what guides this policy. If it's an important event then we should hold it. If it's a normal school day, and it puts the students at risk, we should cancel. That's my opinion.

Gene Grogan

I'd like to explain what happened on that day that led up to the cancellation.

Dave

One more thing, I'm sorry. Students are aware of our website. Parents do not necessarily know these things. These are older people who may not think to go to the computer.

Gene

Friday night, there was no indication that there was going to be an issue with the weather. Saturday morning, I looked outside and it was like a blizzard. It was right on our campus and there was a pile-up right on 81. I made the appropriate phone calls, and followed all of the protocols that we normally do. Next time, we are going to err on the side of caution and cancel the event ahead of time and put a phone tree in place to notify everyone involved.

Norbert

I have no problem whatsoever with the snow policy. However, I would suggest that we at least put a sign on the door.

Gene

And that is what we will do the next time around.

Dale

It might be nice to have someone posted in the driveway as well.

Phil Mosley

And some people will check email before they look at the website.

Gene

And these are all good suggestions, and we've learned from this, and next time around we'll have everything in place.

Durell

One last piece of business. After much discussion with Janet, I am going to step down from Chair as of May 1st and wanted to give the Faculty Senate notice as soon as possible. It shouldn't be much of a problem not having the position of chair-elect filled over the summer, but there will need to be an election in the fall for the position to fill 3 semesters. If there is no other business, motion to adjourn.

Dave

Motion

Dale

Second