

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE 2011-12 UNIVERSITY SENATE

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Members Present: 53

Members Absent: 15

1. The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson of the University Senate, Eric Kelly, at 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call was taken by initialing the roster located at the entrance to TC 101.

Members Present: E. Agnew, R. Bellaver, O. Benkato, E. Bowers, R. Bremigan, B. Brey, S. Byrum, J. Cassady, J. Chapman, C. Corbin, G. Crawley, J. Forbey, A. Gary, M. Gerhard, J. Gora, J. Green, C. Griewank, D. Grosnick, M. Guntsche, M. Hanley, M. Harvey, T. Hendricks, M. Holtzman, J. Jemiolo, E. Kelly, T. King, K. Kreamelmeyer, D. LeBlanc, A. Leahy, J. Ledbetter, T. Mahfouz, S. Parkinson, D. Pearson, L. Pellerin, J. Popovicova, S. Rice-Snow, C. Seni, D. Shawger, G. Slater, G. Stamp, M. Steib, K. Subler, K. Thurman, L. Wiley, B. Wills, J. Zhao, S. Zhuk

Substitutes: Corby Roberson for B. Canada, Beau Browning for C. Griewank, Andy Beane for K. Hall, Mark Neely for J. Huff, James Rybarczyk for S. Pattison, Con Sullivan for K. Stanton

Members Absent: S. Amato, J. Ellery, M. Hamil, B. Hannon, T. Hardin, J. Kim, M. Maggiotto, P. Magro, M. McGrew, D. Middleton, C. Munchel, T. Richardson, W. Sharp, B. Wagner, A. Wieseke

2. A motion was made and seconded (Crawley/Shawger) to approve the minutes of October 27, 2011.

The motion carried.

3. Item I. A. (next scheduled meetings), under Announcements was reviewed.

- B. Update on Exam Services schedule during finals week

Provost King yielded the floor to Marilyn Buck, Associate Provost. In response to concern with Testing Services hours during the four-day finals week, Marilyn reported they will extend their Friday hours until 6pm. An additional pick-up time has been added on Saturday from 1-3pm. Their Sunday pick-up time will continue as usual. She is hopeful these additional hours will allow faculty to pick up their exams and have additional time to submit grades by the Monday noon deadline.

- C. The chairperson of the senate reminded members of the deadline on the constitutional amendment, Tuesday, December 6, at 5:00pm.

- D. Item I.D. (Revised Program Information) and E. (Honorary Degrees) was reviewed.

4. There was a moment of silence in recognition of the deaths of Donald Edward Bivens, Robert Eldon Marsh, and most recently, Brian Eckstein.

5. Committee Reports

- A. Governance and Elections Committee – Richard Bellaver, Chairperson

Richard reported the committee met today and reviewed and approved 1) a revision to the Undergraduate Education Committee membership, and 2) titles for research faculty. Joe Losco and Ray Scheele were in attendance at today's meeting to discuss the membership and professional personnel representation to the Salary and Benefits Committee. They have offered to put together another proposal that will revise the balance between professional personnel and faculty. It will be forwarded to the Salary and Benefits

Committee for their review.

B. Faculty Council – John Ledbetter, Chairperson

John reported the council did not meet in November.

C. University Council – Barbara Wills, Chairperson

Barb reported the council met on November 10 and heard reports from Randy Howard regarding the Phased Retirement Plan and Stan Geidel concerning the Supplemental Compensation Policy. The Course Repetition Policy as well as a revision of the wording in the policy for Withdrawal from all Classes was approved.

D. Campus Council – Kevin Thurman, Chairperson

Kevin reported the council met this month and tabled the Course Repetition Policy. There was discussion concerning designated smoking areas and the policy in general as well as skate boarding on campus. Gene Burton will be invited to the next meeting of the council.

6. Report by Chairperson of Senate – Eric Kelly (University Senate Agenda 12/1/11, Enclosure #1)

The chairperson reported the University Promotion and Tenure items will be moving forward and should come to the councils in the spring.

7. Questions Directed to the President

The President answered the following questions:

1. *A senate member asked if she could expand on the financial incentives for students.*

The university has a four point initiative to provide students financial incentives for completing their education in four years. This includes a \$500 scholarship if you graduate in four years or fewer. Hybrid schedules and summer school have reduced costs. Minimum credit hours in many degrees have been reduced from 126 hours to 120. Our performance funding is based on our graduation rates. We need to help students understand the necessity to make steady progress towards graduation. This plan assists in keeping in line the University's goals and the State's values.

A student qualifies for the \$500 scholarship if they graduate in four years or fewer in December 2012, or thereafter. To cover this incentive, internal funds are reallocated to financial aid.

To help students make better choices of majors, every freshmen going through orientation takes a career interest inventory. Follow-up counseling sessions are running this fall. Statistics show 50% of freshmen students enter college with an undeclared major, and 50% change their major while in college. This helps them in selecting their major.

2. *Is there any change in tuition for summer/repeated courses?*

One of the four points in the initiative is the reduction of summer tuition. Beginning in summer 2012, it will cost less 18% for on-campus courses in the summer. Also, students are allowed to take up to 18 credit hours at the same cost as taking 12 credit hours during the academic year.

The President reported the following:

- A Conversation with David Letterman and Rachel Maddow will take place on Friday, December 2, at 4:00pm in Emens Auditorium. In addition, Rachel Maddow's nightly show on MSNBC will be produced live in our television studio at 9:00pm.
- A President's Perspective will be sent next week reporting on the Strategic Planning effort, as well as the self-study conducted by the University for the Higher Learning Commission review in 2013-2014.
- Winter commencement is December 17. The commencement speaker is Arthur Levine, president of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. Honorary doctor of law degrees will be awarded to Howard A. "Luke" Kenley, and Tanya Walton Pratt.
- Enrollment applications for fall, 2012, are up 8.4% over where we were last year.

8. Question and Answer Period

- *A senate member directed a question to Marilyn Buck, co-chair of the self-study for the university accreditation. Senior faculty members are asking about culture/planning/expectations regarding this particular accreditation. What has changed in the last 25-30 years that requires so much preparation this time?*

Marilyn replied the government is controlling more of a culture of assessment. It has been there for the last 20 years, but the government wants to actually see how we're doing it. For that reason, this must be a university-wide process. The reviewers will actually walk up and down the streets and stop anyone they see and they will have questions for them. They want to verify what we've said in our report. They'll want to know how they're personally involved in the assessment and if they were involved in their area's assessment.

She suggested departments to invite her and Dean Maggiotto (the other co-chair of the self-study) to one of their faculty meetings. They would be happy to answer any and all questions. Their goal is to find ways to make it as easy as possible on the departments.

- *A senate member questioned why construction workers were not held to the smoking policy on campus as faculty/staff/students.*

The President would like to stay on top of this issue and encouraged anyone seeing this happen to contact campus safety and they will issue a citation.

9. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

10. New Business

A. Withdrawal from All Classes (University Senate Agenda, 12/1/11, Enclosure #3)

Lynda Wiley, member of the Extended Education Committee, spoke regarding business process modeling through the new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. The item on today's agenda is for

withdrawing from ALL classes. There is a sense of urgency because the State Board of Accounts is on campus and there needs to be language consistent for both on campus and extended education classes for withdrawing from all classes.

A motion was made and seconded (Pearson/Crawley) to approve the document.

Discussion ensued. ***Regarding all online courses, students must visit a website and not speak with a human?***

The reason for this procedure is because most extended education students do not live in the area. Staci Davis, Director of Online and Distance Education Programs, was in attendance at today's meeting and stated the withdrawal process would take them through the same questions as on-campus classes, but through electronic format. They would contact the student by phone if there was a red flag in the process.

What about withdrawal after the withdrawal period. Faculty can assign a W or an F. What is the justification for an F?

Katie Slabaugh, Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs, and Ombudsperson, stated this is the prerogative of the faculty member. An "F" may be in order if the student didn't do well on a test AND did not come to any classes. It is completely up to the faculty member. It was noted that the grade appeals process is also an option if a student believes a grade was assigned unfairly.

Does 60% match up with the 10-week period?

Staci confirmed it does match up.

The motion to approve carried.

11. Other Items

- Could the Senate clarify that the amendment was sent to all departments and that the senate representative was not responsible for obtaining the vote from the departments?

The amendment was sent electronically with a read receipt requested. It is documented in the senate office that all departments and vice presidential areas opened the electronic correspondence.

A motion was made and seconded (Gary/Crawley) to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 4:40p.m.

January 19, 2012

Eric Kelly, Chairperson

Amy Leahy, Secretary