

November 2006 Faculty Senate Minutes

Faculty Senate Minutes 11-1-06

Senators attending: Brett Serviss, Randy Duncan, Linda English, Patti Miley, Larry Thye, Duane Jackson, Alan Wright, Shanta Sharma, Michael Taylor, James Engman, Kenneth Taylor, Beverly Buys, Maralea Gourley, Georgine Steinmiller, Kevin Durand, Laura Storm, Carol Underwood, Rafael Bejarano, Martin Halpern, Fred Worth, Paula Leming, Don Wells, and Brian English

Senators absent: George Ann Stallings, Linda Wen, Celya Taylor, Troy Hogue, Rick McDaniel

Senate President James Engman announced the quorum and called the meeting to order.

October minutes were approved as distributed.

The President's Report (attached below the minutes) was discussed.

- Changes in registration policy
- Student worker salaries:
 - There was an increase in worker pay from 5.15 to 5.31 at the beginning of the academic year. We are not required to pay minimum wage, but we are required to pay a percentage, hence the increase. Scholarship changes are in preliminary stages, and are not close to being finalized.
- Coke to Pepsi change: Pepsi was willing to give HSU more of a kickback, but the price of the products went from \$1.00 to \$1.25 a bottle...
- Policy regarding drop after 11th day and loss of fee waivers.
- Issue of pervasive use of faculty and student SSNs for access in systems and on forms was raised.

Committee Reports:

- **Academic:** report is attached below minutes.
 - Student evaluations discussion:
 - referred back to Academics committee
 - Summer drop policy:
 - referred back to Academics committee
 - Raising cap on summer term hours:
 - Does this not apply to hours taken at another institution?
 - Our catalog has an exception to allow chairs to override the regular semester 20 hour rule...is the summer an absolute rule or does it allow overriding?
 - If this is intended to have some sort of "out" or exception, and issue of students taking courses elsewhere
 - The issue was referred back to committee for consideration of above issues.
 - Competition w/low priced community colleges:
 - President Engman will discuss with Dr. Houston regarding the content of the upcoming advertisement campaign
 - Diversity Committee will give information regarding the disabilities issue raised last month.
- **Building and Grounds:** Report is attached below minutes.
- **Operations:**
 - Feedback from faculty regarding Excellence Awards was discussed.
- **Procedures:** No report.

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- **Ad-Hoc Faculty Hearing Committee:** Report is attached below minutes
 - First issue (hearing committee election): Referred to Procedures Committee (consider # of members on committee and number of votes to cast in balloting procedure for Faculty Hearing Committee)
 - Second issue (chain of command): President Engman will discuss this issue with Administration
- **Ad-Hoc Morale Committee:** no report.

Old Business:

- none

New Business:

- none

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian English
Faculty Senate Secretary

Faculty Senate President's Report For November 1, 2006 meeting

Meeting with President Charles Dunn, October 25th, 2006

I expressed concern over the fact that new and substantial registration policies were recently implemented without the administration soliciting any input from the Faculty Senate. I explained that this seems like an unfortunate step away from the University's stated goal of shared governance, and is particularly troubling in that it appears to significantly affect the advising process, an area of faculty responsibility that we have been told repeatedly is vital to the success of our students. We discussed Dr. Dunn's understanding of how this new policy came about, and he suggested that I look to Dr. Houston for more specific details.

I informed him of senate progress on some issues, including proposed changes to Founder's Day and the Faculty Excellence Awards. He mentioned that he had a recent meeting in which Dean Maralyn Sommer expressed some concern over the proposal to make only one type of award (service, for example) per year, rotating the awards over a course of three years. He explained that Dean Sommer could best express her concerns, and suggested that I check with her. (Following the meeting with Dr. Dunn I did meet with Dean Sommer, and she expressed her concerns. Specifically, she wondered if limiting the awards given in each year to only one type might provide the students attending – especially the Henderson Seminar students – with a less well-developed view of the role of faculty on campus. I suggested that she consider passing those views along to the Chair of the Operations Committee, which she did.)

Dr. Dunn discussed a recent visit to the State Legislature, and issues related to Henderson's anticipated funding in the next cycle. The University has proposed a \$1.3 million increase in funding, of which approximately \$900,000 would be required for a 3% salary increase, promotions,

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the next stage in implementation of the salary study recommendations, and associated fringe benefit costs. He does not anticipate an increase in health insurance costs, although utility costs are difficult to predict. He is hopeful that no significant tuition increase will be required in the next academic year. He also discussed his thoughts on some possible construction projects on campus, including the Wellness Center, a new cafeteria, a new School of Business building, and possible locations for those structures.

Dr. Dunn mentioned that the University will be running recruitment advertisements on television. Ads will run on network stations for six weeks this fall at a cost of between \$80,000 and \$90,000. Additional ads in the spring will run on cable channels.

Meeting with Vice President Robert Houston, October 25th, 2006

In my meeting with Dr. Houston, I expressed the same concerns over the process of implementing the changes in registration and advising that I had discussed with Dr. Dunn. At the time of our meeting, Dr. Houston had just returned from a lengthy trip to

China, and was unaware of some of the changes that had been announced during his absence. He is going to look into the matter and report back to the senate.

I also reported to Dr. Houston on the issues that the Senate is currently considering, including Founder's Day, excellence awards, and maximum hours allowed during summer. He confirmed that he intended to attend our November

Dr. Houston reported that the

China trip was very productive, and he discussed a number of possibilities for Henderson to expand its contacts and to develop new programs that would involve students from both countries. He was discussed the rate at which the Chinese higher education system is growing, and described the amount of construction taking place at many of their campuses. In some cases, universities roughly the size of Henderson are engaged in expansions involving simultaneous construction of multiple buildings equal to or greater than the square footage of all of our buildings combined.

Meeting with Dr. Alvin Futrell, October 9th, 2006

Dr. Futrell and I met to discuss issues related to diversity on campus, and how we might increase our involvement in encouraging the many aspects of diversity. He discussed a desire to ensure that issues of diversity are considered during the processes of hiring and promotion, while recognizing the importance of seeking to hire the best qualified individual for each position. He encouraged the senate to contact his office with any suggestions, questions, or comments regarding issues of diversity on campus, and asked that I have the senators pass this along to those they represent. Similarly, I offered that if he had suggestions of any specific ways in which the senate could assist in this matter, we would be very willing to consider them.

Report of the Academics Committee, November 1, 2006

The Academics Committee met on October 25. Although the committee lacked a quorum, members present discussed several items.

The chair reported on his attempt to get the issues raised in the last committee report and adopted by the Faculty Senate discussed by the UAC. The chair forwarded the report to Dr. Houston on October 6.

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In a phone conversation, Dr. Houston indicated to the chair that the procedure was to distribute materials for the UAC agenda prior to the meeting. Since the materials for the October UAC meeting had already been distributed, the chair presumes this means the issues from the October Faculty Senate meeting will be discussed at the November UAC meeting. On the issue of the registration procedure, however, Dr. Houston assured the chair that the concerns of faculty about doing away with advisors flagging students had been heard and this would not be done. When Mr. Gattin on October 11 nevertheless announced the change in an email to faculty, the chair queried Dr. Houston to see if he had understood him correctly. Dr. Houston was in China at the time and did not reply to the query.

The members discussed the idea of drafting a resolution on the process of handling student evaluations. Since a procedure is spelled out in the Faculty Handbook, one member suggested that adding a word or two to the handbook might solve the problem. Subsequent to the meeting, the chair reviewed the handbook and discovered that a quick fix was not likely. The handbook indicates that responsibility for review of the Faculty Evaluation program rested with the Faculty Concerns Committee or other appropriate committee and should be completed and presented to the October meeting of the Senate in even numbered years. We are a little late but the chair suggests that the matter be referred to the appropriate committee for judicious consideration.

On the issue of a summer drops policy, the members recommend that time frame match that in the regular semester, approximately two weeks.

On the issue of raising the cap on summer term hours from 7 credits when a student is taking an online course, the members recommend against this as sending the wrong message about the quality and content of summer instruction.

On the issue of competition with low-priced community colleges raised at the last Faculty Senate meeting, committee members recommend that we take pride in our high standards and suggest that the next Henderson advertising campaign highlight both previously honored Henderson graduates who credit the high quality of a Henderson education as being crucial to their achievement along with the current high-achieving students.

Submitted by Martin Halpern, Committee Chair

Report of the Buildings & Grounds Committee, November 1, 2006

In response to my meeting with Carol Underwood regarding the pedestrian safety concerns around Foster Hall and the new residence halls, Bobby Jones has informed me that sidewalks will be placed around both new residence halls. Bobby Jones also mentioned that he would continue working on solutions to the remaining pedestrian safety concerns.

Submitted by Brett Serviss, Committee Chair

Report of the Ad Hoc Faculty Hearing Committee, November 1, 2006

The Ad Hoc Faculty Hearing Committee has begun its work in examining the current process as detailed in the *Faculty Handbook*. Policies at other universities are being examined.

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The Committee recommends that the Procedures Committee consider revising the election process for the Faculty Hearing Committee so that a larger pool of names and votes is generated. One suggestion is that each person vote for three people to serve on the Hearing Committee with the understanding that those receiving the most votes would be elected to the Hearing Committee and that others would be identified as alternates. Due to recusals, resignations, retirements, and other situations making it impossible for people to serve on last spring's committee, only 18 faculty members remained who had received any votes. With a fifteen-member committee, we came uncomfortably close to being unable to seat a full committee! An increase in the number of names would help prevent problems in the future.

Another of the Committee's concerns is that the appropriate "chain of command" is unclear in many parts of the *Faculty Handbook*. The Committee suggests that the Faculty Senate appoint another committee to examine this problem and to make recommendations for revision. The lack of clarity regarding the "chain of command" impacts not only the hearing process, but other University procedures as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula S. Leming, Committee Chair