

**Regular Meeting of the University Senate
Manchester Conference Center, Hazard Board Room
April 3, 2008**

Attendance

Arts & Sciences: Pachence, Chair; Branch; Ellis; Guerrieri; Nadkarni; Otto; Sheehan; D. Sullivan; Tsomo

Business: Gin; Lumori; Sumner

Education: Ammer

Law: Horton; Kelly

Nursing: Clark

Ex-Officio: Allen; Cordeiro; J. Sullivan

Student Representative: Mabry

Guest: Douglas; Herrinton; Heynderickx; Shiley; Vazquez

Pachence opened the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

I. Announcements

A. Chair

1. Report from Cabinet Meeting of March 26. The Individual Conflicts of Interest Policy was approved by the Cabinet and will be considered by the Board of Trustees at its April meeting. Pachence will ask to move agenda item IV.2 to the first item under New Business.

2. Special Senate Meetings. In order to complete review of pending policies, additional meetings are scheduled for May 8, 12:15-1:45 p.m. and May 15, 1:00-3:00p.m., location TBA.

3. Innovative Learning Space Committee. The committee will include a Senate representative. Senators interested in serving should contact Pachence.

II. Approval of the Minutes of March 13, 2008. Postponed until April 17

III. Conversation with Mrs. Darlene Marcos Shiley, Chair, Board of Trustees

Pachence introduced Mrs. Shiley and thanked her for her many years of service and for the support that she and her husband have given to USD. Mrs. Shiley noted that she was asked to address her vision for the university, the financial outlook for the university, and relationships among the Board, faculty, and the committees of the Board. Shiley commented that she and her husband have been drawn to support USD because of its emphasis on values and ethics.

Vision for the University:

Noting that she is in her first year as Board Chair, Shiley said she hoped to have an opportunity to address the Senate later when she could present more specifics. She believes that USD should be well known locally and nationally for the academic quality of its students and curriculum and for its emphasis on values and ethics.

Financial Affairs:

Shiley stated that the Board wants to maintain USD's financial stability and to improve USD's programs. The endowment and reserves are over \$300 million and are expected to reach \$500 million by 2013-14. The board will review the quasi-endowment and will make adjustments if needed. USD has issued nearly \$200 million in bonds to support the growth of its infrastructure. In the future, fundraising will have a larger role in supporting new construction. The building expansion over the last decade has necessitated a larger budget to cover maintenance needs. USD's tuition discount rate is 23% which is low in comparison to other universities.

Shiley then invited questions.

One senator suggested that it might be helpful if a board member could attend Senate meetings in order to give the Board a better sense of faculty concerns. Shiley concurred and said that, if the Senate would like to include a Board member, she will consult with President Lyons. Pachence reminded the group that any member of the university community is welcome to attend Senate meetings.

Another senator asked what further contributions the Senate might provide. Shiley responded that, when she addresses the Senate again, she will be able to answer more specifically. In any case, the Board is eager to know more about our students and, since faculty have direct contact with students, they are the best source of information.

Another senator asked whether a diverse student body is a priority for the Board. Shiley responded that the Board sets specific annual goals for the President and Vice Presidents and that diversity in all aspects is an important element of those goals. The Board raises tuition very carefully and with concern both for the students on financial aid and for those who pay full tuition.

Herrinton explained that next year the Financial Aid Office will increase aid to a larger group of highly qualified students who also have a high level of need, with the goal of meeting 100% of those students' need. The cost to the university will be \$700,000. This should attract well prepared students and also increase the economic and ethnic diversity of the student body.

Pachence thanked Shiley for her responses and invited her to stay for the remainder of the meeting.

IV. New Business

Motion by Ellis/Sheehan to: MOVE INDIVIDUAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY TO NUMBER ONE OF NEW BUSINESS.

Vote: Passed by unanimous consent.

1. Individual Conflicts of Interest Policy (included with the agenda)

The Executive Committee moved the policy to the floor.

Pachence noted that he had received a memo from President Lyons requesting the Senate's input and emphasizing the urgency of the policy, which will be sent to the Board on April 11.

Douglas added that compelling reasons, including the recent attention by the IRS, have necessitated moving the Conflicts of Interest policy forward.

D. Sullivan stated that it would be important for faculty to recognize situations that could cause a conflict or the appearance of a conflict of interest and to understand the extent to which employees could be held responsible if they failed to recognize a potential conflict. Horton responded that educational sessions regarding these topics are contemplated by the administration. The main obligation of the faculty under this policy is to disclose possible conflicts of interest and to exercise good judgment in doing so. Douglas confirmed that training sessions on these topics will be offered.

In response to questions about the termination notice contained in the policy and the nature of the conflicts of interest that could lead to termination, Horton responded that the statement about termination is designed to disclose to the employee the full range of potential options. Herrinton emphasized that, for a faculty member to be terminated, proceedings based on the Conflicts of Interest policy would be governed by the Dismissal for Serious Cause policy.

Motion by Clark/Sheehan to: ACCEPT THE INDIVIDUAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY.

It was recommended that some units on campus develop a specific set of subpolicies within the general framework of the policy.

Vote: 16 – Approve; 0 – Oppose; 0 – Abstain. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

Eren Branch
Secretary

Peggy Agerton
Recording Secretary