

Regular Meeting of the University Senate

December 11, 2003

Hahn Pavilion, Room 108

Attendance

Arts & Sciences: Dobkin, Chair; Branch; Herrinton; Nadkarni; Otto; Pachence; Payne; Pierson; Sullivan; Williams

Business: Schubert; Smith

Education: Monroe

Law: Kelly

Nursing: Orsi

Ex-Officio: Drinan; Lazarus

Student Representative: Castanos

Dobkin opened the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

1. Announcements.

a) Report from Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees. Dobkin distributed the memo addressed to the committee summarizing the Senate's discussion about a draft statement of the University mission. The memo wasn't given to the committee because the Steering Committee had not yet seen the draft mission statement.

b) School of Peace Studies. Dobkin reported that the planning process for the new School of Peace Studies was discussed at the Academic Affairs Committee. Dobkin asked for Senate participation in the planning process and asked that those interested in serving as a Senate representative contact her.

c) Report from Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees. Herrinton reported that the University audit is complete and no issues were raised. Tuition has been increased for freshmen and all entering students. The University budget for 2004-2005 has been approved.

2. Approval of Minutes of Nov. 20, 2003.

The minutes of Nov. 20, 2003 were distributed.

Motion by Kelly, seconded by Herrinton, to: APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2003.

Vote: 13 – Approve; 0 – Oppose; 2 – Abstain. The motion passed.

3. Motion to oppose increases in the size of the freshman class.

The Executive Committee moves the following resolution on freshman class size.

Resolution on Freshman Class Size

A key tactic for generating revenue that has been proposed by Finance and Administration is to further increase the size of the next 3 incoming freshman classes by 95 “full-pay” students. This plan is likely to generate more than enough revenue to compensate for deficits in financial aid, and it comes with no determination about how those revenue will be allocated. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that previous class size levels will be restored.

Whereas the University had to take extraordinary measures, such as enrolling two extra students in every general preceptorial, over-enrolling numerous sections of courses in multiple departments by two to three students, and adding extra beds to the residence halls, to accommodate this year's record number of 1,062 freshmen, and

Whereas some of the hallmarks of a USD education, such as the increasing quality of entering students, small class sizes, personal interaction between students and faculty, and the ability of conscientious students to graduate in four years, have already been compromised at the current enrollment levels, and

Whereas the University has essentially reached the 7,200 average annual headcount cap adopted by the Board of Trustees and incorporated into our current 10-year plan, and

Whereas the number of undergraduate students is already approximately 500 students higher than projected based on the current 10-year plan, and

Whereas the proposal undermines the current strategic planning process,

Therefore, be it resolved that the University Senate opposes the proposal to increase the size of the freshman class in each of the next three years.

Herrinton noted that some of the figures cited in the resolution should be updated: the number of additional full-pay students has been reduced from 95 to 43, and the number of freshmen has been adjusted from 1,064 to 1,062 for the current class.

Lazarus said the sentence “This plan is likely to generate more than enough revenue to compensate for the deficits in financial aid” at 95 students was correct; but at 43 students the sentence may be wrong.

Motion by Herrinton, seconded by Sullivan, to: CHANGE THE NUMBER 95 TO 43 IN THE FIRST PARAGRAPH, LINE THREE, AND CHANGE THE NUMBER 1,064 TO 1,062 IN THE SECOND PARAGRAPH, LINE FOUR..

Vote: Passed by voice vote.

Herrinton expressed concern about the number of students at the undergraduate level. Small classes and faculty-student interaction is a hallmark of USD; these hallmarks erode as USD increases enrollment. The 43 students may become permanent because no one seems to know how many freshmen are needed to make budget. Lazarus confirmed this assessment. Adding 43 students raises concern because USD has no extra FTE’s left. Extra students are at the graduate level, and graduate enrollments can fluctuate, causing the budget surplus to disappear. There will be pressure to keep the 43 students.

Drinan hopes USD will return to approximately 1,057 students. A separate budget will be used for the additional expenses needed to instruct and house the 43 students. One reason the freshmen enrollment has increased was to deal with the couple of hundred students on study abroad each year. USD pays the study abroad sites and the students receive financial aid. Faculty have been added in the last three years to help maintain the quality of instruction to the freshman class. He fears USD may be locked into increasing freshman numbers. Enrollment was 900 nine years ago, now is 1,100 in terms of the projected enrollment – almost a 25% increase.

Lazarus explained the process of projecting the incoming freshmen class to meet the budget. He supports a bubble in the freshmen class for three years only because he now has a specific freshman class base number of between 1,032 and 1,057 that USD is operating from. (An extra 32 engineering students will be added for the program in mechanical engineering.) The financial aid deficit over seven years is close to \$20 million. In the last two years alone, the deficit is somewhere between \$12.5 and \$14 million, which is about the revenue that 43 full-pay students in three-years will generate to repay the reserves that covered the deficit in the past. Another issue is money held in reserves because that money determines USD’s bond rating.

Senators expressed concern that USD's hallmark education may be jeopardized by professors being forced to teach courses off prime time, which reduces student-faculty interaction, and by increased numbers of students in preceptorials, which may affect faculty desire to participate as preceptors.

Motion to amend by Herrinton, seconded by Sullivan, to: STRIKE FROM THE SECOND SENTENCE "IS LIKELY TO GENERATE MORE THAN ENOUGH REVENUE TO COMPENSATE FOR DEFICITS IN FINANCIAL AID, AND IT" TO READ: "THIS PLAN COMES WITH NO DETERMINATION OF HOW THOSE REVENUES WILL BE ALLOCATED."

Vote: Passed by voice vote with two abstentions.

Vote on amended motion: 7 – Approve; 4 – Oppose; 3- Abstain. The motion passed.

4. Amended policy on tuition remission.

The following motion to amend the substitute motion (removal of Limitations, paragraph "a," and replace with the following Condition 5) to include "completing their first University degree or certificate program," is on the floor:

Each employee, spouse of an employee, and dependent child of employee is eligible for the tuition remission benefit for purposes of obtaining a University of San Diego degree or certificate. The benefit must be used in a University degree-conferring or certificate program. In the event that more eligible persons apply for tuition remission than can be accommodated within the University's operating budget, then priority will be given to employees, their spouses and dependent children who are in the process of completing *their first degree or certificate program*.

Herrinton said the motion is to add the clause "first degree" to determine eligibility. Does this refer to a first degree or to a first degree at USD? Clarification is needed. Kelly said the first sentence of the amendment is redundant with the sentence that is in the policy and it would be best to strike it.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

David Sullivan
Secretary

Peggy Agerton
Recording Secretary