

Regular Meeting of the University Senate
Manchester Center, Hazard Board Room
December 14, 2006

Attendance

Law: Lazerow, Chair; Kelly

Arts & Sciences: Branch; Guerrieri; Jubran; Meter; Moran; Nadkarni; Otto; Pachence; Pierson; Sullivan; Tsomo; Velo

Business: Barkacs; Gin; Schubert; Sumner

Education: Low; Perrakis

Nursing: Clark

Ex-Officio: Allen; Hardin; Healy

Student Representative: Miranda

Guests: Canfield; Msgr. Dillabough; Dobkin; Tom Cosgrove; Carmen Vazquez

Lazerow opened the meeting at 12:17pm.

1. Announcements

A. Agenda. Motion by Allen/Pachence to give consent to add at the end of the current agenda: UC expansion review, presented by Thomas Cosgrove.

Motion passed by voice vote.

B. Honorary Degree nominations. No objections to the three honorary degree nominations have been received. The nominations have gone forward to the Academic Affairs Committee. Three additional nominations were sent to Senators on Dec. 12, 2006. Any objections to these nominations must be received within one week.

C. Adoption policy. Lyons received the Adoption Expense Reimbursement policy recently approved by the Senate and will send it to the Cabinet for approval.

D. Information Resource Council report. Vello reported on the council's meeting of Dec. 4 and distributed meeting minutes.

E. Trustees' Athletics Committee meeting report. Lazerow distributed Moran's report of the committee meeting.

2. Discussion of proposed policy on recognition of student organizations.

Lazerow introduced Vazquez, Dillabough, and Cosgrove, who briefed Senators on the proposed policy. Vazquez explained how Student Affairs, Mission and Ministry and the Associated Students will collaborate to recognize student organizations using the new Student Organizations Registration Procedures. Dillabough said that the guidelines would help USD address issues raised by off-campus religious organizations that attempt to establish an on-campus presence via student groups. The past informal, unwritten practice by Student Affairs and Mission and Ministry of reviewing new religious organizations for conformance with the USD mission was formalized in writing.

Subject to further review would be any outside organization whose staff come onto campus but are not part of the USD community. In the case of a religious organization, a panel composed of Student Affairs, Mission and Ministry, and AS would review the proposal and determine whether the group is student-run. If the group is student-run, then the proposal goes through the ordinary process. If the proposal is for a religious organization connected to outside groups, then it falls to Mission and Ministry to determine whether the group is recognized.

Clark asked why only outside religious organizations have been targeted for additional scrutiny, suggesting that the same parameters should apply to all organizations with ties to outside groups. Vazquez and Dillabough noted that they had not considered this but would be willing to look into addressing this in a policy revision.

3. Committee Reports: Proposed amendment to the Faculty Status Committee's Policy on Emeritus Faculty.

Addressing the Executive Committee's proposed amendment, Senators discussed the expanded benefits of the policy, some stating that resources and space would not be available for emeritus faculty and others voicing concern about emeritus faculty attending faculty meetings. Younger faculty are in need of the limited financial resources for teaching, research, and office space. Also, the presence of emeritus faculty at meetings could caution younger faculty against taking leadership roles.

Motion to amend by Pachence/Hardin to: DELETE THE LAST TWO PARAGRAPHS OF THE PROPOSED POLICY STARTING WITH "THE UNIVERSITY ENCOURAGES THE CONTINUED TEACHING, RESEARCH, SERVICE, AND DEVELOPMENT"

Low, a member of the Faculty Status Committee, said the committee attempted to provide a baseline policy from which to make decisions about emeritus faculty involvement, especially in faculty meetings. There was consensus that a statement is needed in the policy indicating whether emeritus faculty are invited or not invited to faculty meetings, an issue now left to the discretion of the department or dean.

A poll of Senators by Lazerow indicated that most are in favor of retaining emeritus faculty's email access, contact information on the USD web site, and opportunities for interaction with colleagues, but are not in favor of the other proposed benefits.

Pachence/Hardin withdrew the amendment.

Motion to amend by Pachence/Hardin to: ELIMINATE THE FOURTH SENTENCE OF THE FIFTH PARAGRAPH BEGINNING WITH "Based on availability and on funding"

Vote: 20 – Approve; 2 – Oppose; 1 – Abstain. The motion passed.

Motion to amend by Kelly/Pachence to: ADD "EACH ACADEMIC UNIT SHOULD DETERMINE BY POLICY WHETHER EMERITUS FACULTY SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN FACULTY AND/OR COMMITTEE MEETINGS."

Kelly said the language is designed to force units to decide whether emeritus faculty are entitled to attend meetings.

Vote: 3 – Approve; 23 – Oppose; 2 – Abstain. The motion failed.

Motion to amend by Perrakis/Meter to: IN THE FIFTH PARAGRAPH: CHANGE "ENCOURAGES" TO "INVITES" IN THE FIRST LINE, STRIKE THE SECOND SENTENCE, KEEP THE THIRD SENTENCE, AND STRIKE THE REMAINDER OF THE PARAGRAPH.

Branch said "invites" sounds stronger than "encourages." Kelly said there is ambiguity as to who is being invited, as it isn't stated.

Motion to amend by Kelly/Jubran to: EXTEND THE MEETING FOR UP TO 7 MINUTES AS NEEDED TO DEAL WITH THE AMENDMENT.

Vote: Passed by voice vote.

Vote: 4 – Approve; 13 – Oppose; 3 – Abstain. The motion failed.

Motion by Sullivan/Pachence to: POSTPONE FURTHER DISCUSSION AND TO RECOGNIZE TOM COSGROVE TO REVIEW THE UC EXPANSION PLANS.

Passed by voice vote.

4. University Center expansion review.

Cosgrove presented an overview of the UC expansion plans, noting that the project has been scaled down. The project was approved 2 ½ years ago at a cost of \$31.5 million to double the size of the current UC. That money 2 ½ years later will only pay for about two-thirds of the new building as originally proposed. Secondly, when the revised cost estimates came in, Finance and Administration made the decision to reduce the size of the Bookstore, keeping textbook sales in the current Bookstore location while maintaining a retail space, a coffee lounge area, and computer sales and service in the expanded UC. The steering committee has proposed using the faculty/staff dining space as a pub/café for use in the evening.

Allen asked what plans are being considered in case costs continue to increase. Vazquez said that construction costs increased between 25% and 30%, and similar increases may continue. At this point, while exploring alternatives, the university has committed more than \$20 million to constructing new space and \$5.6 million to renovations. Value engineering represents another level of review and analysis. The contractor's bids will provide the real price for the project.

The meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

Submitted by,

David Sullivan
Secretary

Peggy Agerton
Recording Secretary