

Regular Meeting of the University Senate

October 21, 2004

IPJ, Room H

Arts & Sciences: Dobkin, Chair; Branch; Jubran; Meter; Nadkarni; Nelson; Otto; Pachence; Pierson; Sullivan; Walsh; Williams

Business: Gin; Schubert

Education: Monroe; Quesada

Law: Kelly

Nursing: None

Ex-Officio: Gump; Herrinton

Student Representatives: Franz; Maurer

Dobkin opened the meeting at 12:22 p.m.

1. Announcements

a) Trustees' committee representation. Jubran was elected by acclamation to the Mission and Vision committee of the Board, replacing Lewis, who had resigned.

b) Report of the Academic Affairs committee. Lazerow submitted the report of the Oct. 1, 2004 meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board.

c) Update on Provost Search. Dobkin announced that two provost candidates will interview on campus, the first on Nov. 2 and second between Nov. 8 and 11.

d) Address by Bissonnette and Oliver. Paul Bissonnette and Pat Oliver will attend the Nov. 4 Senate meeting to discuss policy issues.

2. Approval of the minutes of October 7, 2004.

Motion by Pachence, seconded by Kelly, to: APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCT. 7, 2004.

Vote: 17 – Approve; 0 – Oppose; 0 – Abstain. The motion passed.

3. Old business

Senate Benefits Committee Action Items A and B. The committee recommends the amendment of the Policy on Tuition Remission, 2.2.4, page 2 in the *Policy and Procedures Manual*, No. 4 (action item A) and 5a. (action item B).

Action Item A: 4. Date of Eligibility. Eligibility for employees begins the first day of **the** fall or spring semester which is nearest to their first year anniversary date. Eligibility for spouses and dependent children begins the first day of **the** fall or spring semester which is nearest to the employee's second year anniversary date. To attract and recruit Naval Reserve Officers T C **Training Corps** instructors and retain this program, instructors in this classification are eligible upon employment.

Proposed amendment: Delete "T C" and add words in bold type.

Action Item B: 5. Limitations.

- a. Part-time employees working less than 20 hours a week or it's equivalency and full or part time employees that are not in a benefit eligible position are not eligible for Tuition Remission.

Proposed amendment: Delete 5a. entirely and re-letter the next four provisions a. through d.

Pachence explained that the Item A and Item B were inserted into the *Manual* in June 2003 and were not submitted to the Senate. The committee recommends approval of Item A because NROTC instructors are at USD for only short term. Item B is redundant with the Scope of the Policy.

Herrinton said the statement of the policy's scope and 5.a. are contradictory. In the Scope, the only part-time employees eligible are those in a job-share position; in section 5a., a 5/8 faculty member would be eligible. The Scope of the Policy reflects current practice.

Motion by Schubert, seconded by Branch, to: SEPARATE ITEM A AND ITEM B.

Vote: 15 – Approve; 0 – Oppose; 2 – Abstain. The motion passed.

Vote on Item A: 17 – Approve; 0 – Oppose; 0 – Abstain. The motion passed.

Pachence said the committee recommends deletion of section 5a.

Herrinton said the current policy grants tuition remission only for an employees in a full-time benefits-eligible position. The limitation posed by section 5a. contradicts the Scope provision. Senators discussed different revisions to 5a. and the Scope of the Policy.

Williams said because President Lyons has denied extending tuition remission to 5/8 employees, the Senate would lose nothing by deleting 5a. The Senate could charge the Benefits Committee with taking up tuition remission for 5/8 employees. Pachence said that a formal charge to the Committee would help the Senate continue its dialogue with Lyons about tuition remission.

Vote: 16 – Approve; 1 – Oppose; 0 – Abstain. The motion passed.

Dobkin said the motion carries with it the understanding that Pachence will continue his efforts to address eligibility for part-time employees. Pachence said the President's letter in which she denied the Senate's revised tuition remission policy cited several premises upon which she based her decision. The committee has presented to the executive committee its clarification of those premises for further discussion with the President.

4. New business

a) Motion to accept resolution regarding faculty Internet access.

Resolution

Whereas, the internet is an important tool for conducting research, in pursuance of the University's expectations of its professors;

And whereas internet access from office computers has become either unavailable or excruciatingly slow during many hours of the day, impairing the ability of professors to perform this portion of their work in an efficient manner;

Be it Resolved that: The University should immediately takes steps to ensure prompt and speedy access to the internet for all faculty.

Herrinton distributed a paper that explained the source of network problems and steps being taken to address IT problems. The network problems this fall occurred when students and faculty brought computers to campus that were massively infected, spreading viruses through the network and generating massive traffic on the network. When too much traffic appeared in one area the whole network went down.

IT purchased software that notifies IT when a particular port generates excess traffic. Other than peer-to-peer traffic, the software doesn't look at content. If a computer port is generating excess traffic, the network administrator makes the decision on whether to pull the plug on the computer. IT is planning to implement an automated system in place of the manual process now in use. The network is now compartmentalized, and when one part goes down only the system for that building goes down. There is a proposal to authenticate any computer that hooks up to the network, such that the first time a user goes online, the user will be required to log in using regular email information. Any computer causing a problem would be identified specifically and pulled offline without shutting down an entire system area. In addition, off-campus people using USD wireless connection or a hallway port won't be able to use the bandwidth because they will not have a USD email account. A consultant will do a network performance review, although AT&T has already been contacted to triple USD's bandwidth from 15Mb/sec to 45Mb/sec.

Meter said for a year or two there have been problems with email spam. Nelson recommended that USD not increase business on the web or email until the IT can get a handle on the spam.

Pierson, a member of the IT Steering Committee, voiced concerns with the resolution. It is nearly impossible to separate faculty use from student use the way USD is wired. Also, faculty use may be compromised because they may not be able to dial into campus from home or use a laptop at different locations. The bigger problem is that the wires that carry the information have not been upgraded in a long time.

Kelly said the intention of the resolution is to request that whatever it takes now for faculty to have computer access that it be done.

Kelly accepted a few amendments suggested by other senators. Pierson recommended that the Senate invite David Todd to a Senate meeting to address IT issues.

Vote: 17 – Approve; 0 – Oppose; 0 – Abstain. The resolution passed. The resolution now reads:

Whereas, the Internet is an important tool for conducting research and teaching, in pursuance of the University's expectations of its professors;

And whereas Internet access from office and classroom computers has become either unavailable or excruciatingly slow during many hours of the day, impairing the ability of professors to perform work in an efficient manner;

Be it Resolved that: The university should immediately take steps to ensure prompt and speedy access to the Internet for all faculty.

Dobkin asked that additional resolutions regarding IT issues be submitted to the executive committee one week prior to a Senate meeting.

b) Motion to support the initiative from the Office of the Provost by requiring assignment of USD email accounts to all faculty and students in the five regular academic units (A&S, Business, Education, Law, and Nursing).

Pierson said he supports the rationale but questioned the practicality of its implementation. because not all faculty and students use email, and some faculty and students use non-USD email accounts. Herrinton responded that all students are assigned email accounts except graduate students in A&S, Business and Education. In excess of 95% of faculty have email accounts, and most of those who do not are part-time. Those who use non-USD email accounts would be assigned a USD email address, hence they could have USD email messages forwarded automatically to those accounts.

Nelson said he will vote against any attempt to further carry on USD business by email until the anti-spam software is improved. Senators discussed the difficulties and problems with the anti-spam software. Nelson said that moving to electronic and web-based communications involves adequate execution.

The question was called by Kelly and seconded by Pachence.

Vote: 13 – Approve; 4 – Oppose; 0 – Abstain. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

David Sullivan
Secretary

Peggy Agerton
Recording Secretary