

MINUTES
Meeting of the Faculty Senate– February 9, 2010

We were called to order at 12:20 PM

PRESENT: Senators Blett, Canedy, Carey, Decker, DiChiara, Fonte, Gray, Hansen, Hill, Lei, Lewis, Mellodge, Moshlehpour, Pense, Poggio, Russell, Sekou, Shepela, Siegel (reporting), Tetel, Weinholtz, Wetherbee.

Also: Maria Marques, Casey Bailey, John Carson, Mildred McNeill, Barbara Steinberger, Matt Wyman.

ABSENT: Senators Balco, Lashgari, Machuga, McCloskey, Rosiene, Scribner, Pedro, Woodard, Zimmerman..

●PRESENTATION ON WEB SITE AND UNOTES

John Carson explained that the university's first website was rolled out in 1995-96; he walked us through how we chose the consultant to help us with the most recent revamping, emphasizing how austere the budget was and remains for this activity. At the moment there is only one staff person in charge of overall maintenance and updating of the university's web site.

Mildred McNeill (website) reviewed the members of her working committee and the many constituencies the committee consulted. She offered a "sociology of the web," explaining governing principles that guided her group. For example, "how many clicks does it take to get from A to B" is much less important today than it used to be, how making sure the front page is not too cluttered is equally important. She asked for continued feedback to be sent to her at Mcneill@hartford.edu

Barbara Steinberger (Unotes) encouraged us to make this our home page on our desktops. She pointed out that many units on campus have cut down their paper and printing budgets for publicity, thus many activities on campus are publicized only online these days.

Some concern was expressed by senators about the need for more convenient access to Unotes and to the website's full array of features from smaller PDAs rather than just computers.

Discussion also focused on the need for more consistency in overall look of various units' web sites.

Some functional and aesthetic criticism was offered (e.g., that the website's home page is too light/white, and needs more of the campus's trademark red color.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION LIAISON – nothing new since last report

BLT– portfolios are here, and committee members present were asked to pick them up.

CURRICULUM

We reviewed the document previously distributed, which included reference to POL changes left over from last time, and a summary of the overall “program revision”; Barney’s accrediting association requiring the removal of some cross-listings so as to emphasize that only Barney faculty would teach these classes; Criminal Justice reducing the number of required internships to from two to one, plus some other smaller changes; Hillyer’s creation of a new Business Studies concentration, plus some other changes; small changes in some DRA classes.

The committee’s actions were APPROVED.

FACULTY AFFAIRS– nothing new since last time

FACULTY DIVERSITY –

The committee continues to have difficulty finding common meeting times to work on responses to the Sweitzer memo about the toolkit. There was some discussion among senators about the need to make clear what we seek as recommendations and what we seek as requirements, as prescriptions.

MINUTES
Meeting of the Faculty Senate– February 11, 2010

We were called to order at 12:20 PM

PRESENT: Senators Blett, Carey, Gray, Hansen, Hill, Machuga, Mellodge, Moshlehpour, Pedro, Pense, Poggio, Rosiene, Shepela, Siegel (reporting), Weinholtz, Wetherbee, Woodard.

Also: Maria Marques, Casey Bailey, Matt Wyman, Lynn Pasquerealla

ABSENT:

Senators Balco, Canedy, Decker, DiChiara, Fonte, Hansen, Lei, Lewis, McCloskey, Russell, Scribner, Sekou, Tetel, Zimmerman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

We approved the February minutes, but noted that Matt Wyman's name was misspelled (with 2 n's).

PROVOST REPORT

We are beginning a new 5-year fund raising campaign shortly. The Board of Regents today will look at the role of advisory boards to the various colleges. It will also discuss case studies on such issues as diversity, balancing time demands of teaching and scholarship, and how most appropriately to use part-time faculty in delivering the curriculum.

With respect to Part Time faculty, it was suggested that the campus explore ways to inexpensively provide for adjuncts who might come only once weekly from a great distance, and need housing for that one night each week.

Events planned as part of "Our Campus, Our Planet" were outlined, as well as the upcoming "Peace Jam," with a major guest speaker (Nobel Peace Prize winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel) and about 300 HS students from New England and New York schools.

Several senators expressed the need for more guidance as to how to help enhance diversity in legal ways— e.g., how best to combat unconscious bias on the part of search committee members? Could production and distribution of a DVD be an initial training vehicle (akin to what IRB members go through)? Or more full-blown workshops (akin to what all supervisors must go through vis-a-vis sexual harassment issues)?

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

The committee is planning a meeting with Aramark, to discuss their greening initiatives for food and compostable items.

Movement is also underway toward an "eco-friendliness dormitory competition" for Fall, 2010. Norm Young reported to the committee that the campus has begun moving slowly into using solar

panels.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Committee members are invited to a Campus Activities Team meeting in a couple of weeks, and we have a standing invitation for Tuesday “happy hour” student government meetings.

As to the textbooks issue, it is envisioned that Siegel will draft proposed wording for a letter to go out to all faculty jointly from the provost and the chair of the senate, outlining suggestions (e.g., placing extra desk copies on reserve, having department publicize which courses will use which books as far in advance of the semester opening as possible)

My committee... also.. Rent texts.. Online purchase and post office backlog.... depts coming up with list of all books a month before classes begin.

We adjourned at 1:45 PM