

Senate Council
September 16, 2013

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, September 16, 2013 in 103 Main Building. Below is a record of what transpired. All votes were taken via a show of hands unless indicated otherwise.

Senate Council Chair Lee X. Blonder called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

1. Minutes from August 26, 2013 and Announcements

There were no changes to the minutes. Therefore, the minutes from August 26, 2013 were **approved by unanimous consent**.

There were a few announcements. The Chair announced that she had identified chairs for the Senate's Academic Programs Committee (Andrew Hippisley), the Senate's Academic Organization and Structure Committee (Greg Wasilkowski), and the Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (Greg Graf). She offered her appreciation to the two committee chairs present, who are also SC members.

The Chair noted that Ms. Brothers was taking a class and needed to leave at 4:45. After brief discussion, Anderson offered to take notes for the remaining 15 minutes, if the Chair or Vice Chair could not.

The Chair said that agenda item 2.b. needed additional revisions prior to SC deliberation, so she had pulled it from the day's agenda.

SC members then offered their comments on the September 9 University Senate (Senate) meeting. Below is a representative sampling of comments.

- The address by President Capilouto was better than what was given this past spring, but it was still primarily concerned with building projects.
- The President needs to talk to the Senate about upcoming initiatives, not just past accomplishments. His comments did not suggest that the Senate will play an active role in immediate decisions or future plans.
- The question and answer session after the President's presentations could be better managed in the future if the SC takes some initiative to suggest topics for him to discuss, or prepares questions in advance.

The Chair suggested that the agenda be reordered to allow the SC to consider the item for which an invited guest was waiting. There were no objections.

4. Request to Waive *Senate Rules 5.2.4.8.1* ("Common Examinations") for CHE 232-001

The Chair invited Guest Bob Grossman to explain his request. Grossman said that he gives his students a final exam that requires a computer – the only room that can accommodate all his students and offer each a computer is in the Nursing Building. That room, however, is not available during the time when the common exam for CHE 232-001 was scheduled. Grossman noted that he had moved the exam time in the past; if a student(s) cannot make it at the new time, Grossman permits the student to take the exam at the regularly scheduled time, or at another time. Watt **moved** that the SC approve the change

in the common exam time for CHE 232 as requested and Brion **seconded**. There being no discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

2. Old Business

a. Senate Committee Preferences - Senate's Advisory Committee on Disability Accommodation and Compliance (SACDAC)

The Chair explained that the SC had approved three faculty members of the new Senate standing committee, the Senate's Advisory Committee on Disability Accommodation and Compliance (SACDAC), but one vacancy remained. She said that she had identified a fourth faculty member to serve. Wood **moved** that the individual be appointed to SACDAC, with a term ending August 2016. Wasilkowski **seconded**. There being no discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

c. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Senate Non-Faculty Membership

The Chair reminded SC members that the SC last discussed the issue during the June 13 SC retreat and that there are five recommendations in the report from the ad hoc Committee on Senate Non-Faculty Membership, one of which was amended at the retreat:

1. The name of the University Senate be changed to 'University Faculty Senate'.
2. The status of student senators and elected emeriti faculty be changed to non-voting.
3. The administrators and Deans who currently are ex officio voting member be moved to ex officio non-voting status.
4. The student members of the Senate Council be moved to non-voting status.
5. That in a spirit of increasing University communication among participants in shared governance, the charge to the University Assembly be expanded to include a function for the President to periodically meet in joint session with the executive bodies of the University Faculty Senate, Student Senate, and Staff Senate.

She recalled that the SC passed a motion to bring the report to the Senate prior to January 2014; she placed the item on the agenda to refresh everyone's memory and plan future actions. Wood **moved** to delay reconsideration of the report until the SC takes a formal vote to reinstate discussion. After a few questions, Wood clarified that the intent of the motion was to indefinitely postpone a report to the Senate. Brion **seconded**. There was lengthy discussion on the motion, with questions about the practical result of such a motion (whether or not it supersedes the motion from June 2013), if the administration had been offered an opportunity to comment on the recommendations, and how others may react to the report. Wood **withdrew** her motion, with Brion's concurrence.

It was generally agreed that prior to moving forward with the ad hoc committee's recommendations, the SC should clarify the Senate's statutory responsibilities for the benefit of newer administrators, after which the SC should solicit input from deans and affected administrators. SC members mentioned the possibility of a working lunch with deans, to share the recommendations of the ad hoc committee and request feedback.

The Chair wrapped up discussion on the recommendations by suggesting that the SC hold off on making a decision about sending the report to the Senate, although the issue will be revisited prior to the December 2013 Senate meeting. In addition, the SC can discuss how to present the recommendations to deans. There were no objections.

3. Committee Reports

a. Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC) - Davy Jones, Chair

i. Proposed Changes to Senate Rules 6.4.7.A.1

Guest Davy Jones, chair of the Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC), explained the impetus for the changes – when the omnibus academic offenses language was revised in 2005-2006, there was a small clause in *Senate Rules 6.4.7.A.1* which was overlooked. The issue was brought to the attention of the SREC, who edited the wording to comply with federal regulations. The goal is to protect a student's confidentiality, but not to the extent of destroying part of a student record.

The motion to approve came from the SREC. Wasilkowski **moved** to send the changes to *SR 6.4.7.A.1* to the Senate with a positive recommendation. Debski **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

5. Request to Waive Senate Rules 5.2.4.8.1 ("Common Examinations") for BIO 155

The Chair explained that BIO 155 (all sections) somehow did not make it into the Common Exam schedule.

Watt **moved** that the SC approve the change in the common exam time for BIO 155 as requested and Brion **seconded**. There being no discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

6. Senate's Graduate Communication and Composition Requirement Advisory Committee

The Chair said that one of the proposed co-chairs, Roxanne Mountford, was unable to serve in that role due to a research leave. Once a co-chair is identified, the nominee will be brought to the SC for approval.

7. Honors Committee Membership

The Chair shared the two nominees for inclusion in the Honors Committee, which is the faculty of record for the Honors Program. Wood **moved** to approve both individuals and Wasilkowski **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

8. New Undergraduate Program Form

The Chair recalled that at the June retreat, the SC asked Ms. Brothers to consolidate all the academic councils' program criteria into one form. She asked Ms. Brothers to explain the new "New Undergraduate Program Form." Ms. Brothers stated that the form was lengthy, but that the overall intent was to capture all the information required for a new program at the outset. It will include the requirements promulgated by: the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE); the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools – Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC); and councils of the Senate. Once a department completes the form, there should be no additional information needed for the review process, with the exception of requests for clarification of answers. Ms. Brothers answered a variety of questions from SC members, noting that she was happy to incorporate suggestions into the form, which was still a work in process.

Guest Ben Withers, interim associate provost for undergraduate education and Honors Program director, arrived. The Chair suggested that SC members ask any questions they might have about either the Senate's Graduate Communication and Composition Requirement Advisory Committee or the Honors Committee.

Returning to the new program form, there was additional discussion about adding a checklist or suggestions about who to contact if the person filling out the form runs into a question, particularly for the financial information required by the CPE.Ms. Brothers and Withers agreed to work together to create those aids. The Chair suggested that comments be sent to Ms. Brothers.

9. Provost Christine Riordan

The Chair introduced Provost Christine Riordan and presented her with John Thelin's recent book, "The Rising Costs of Higher Education" which was signed by Thelin, as well as SC members. Below is a representative list of the issues brought up by Provost Riordan. Provost Riordan and SC members discussed a few of the topics in detail.

- The initiative to develop new strategic plan, to replace the 2009 – 2014 Strategic Plan and corollary events to stimulate thought and discussion.
- The new Responsibility Centered Management (RCM) budget model.
- An effort to seek greater alignment of roles and areas in the Provost's office.
- The redesign of the Graduate School.
- A woman faculty initiative.
- The liaison from the Provost's office to the Senate Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lee X. Blonder,
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Anderson, Blonder, Brion, Christ, Debski, Hippisley, McCamy, Palli, Pienkowski, Wasilkowski, Watt and Wood.

Provost's Liaison present: Greissman.

Invited guests present: Grossman, Jones, Riordan, Withers.

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on Friday, September 20, 2013.