

Senate Council
September 17, 2007

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, September 17, 2007 in 103 Main Building. Below is a record of what transpired. All votes were taken via a show of hands unless indicated otherwise.

Chair Kaveh A. Tagavi called the meeting to order. The Chair reported that Thelin had alerted the Office of the Senate Council that he would be absent.

2. [Change in Method of Appointment to Graduate Faculty](#)

The Chair invited Graduate School Dean Jeannine Blackwell to speak on behalf of the proposal. Guest Blackwell offered some opening comments.

There was significant discussion regarding the proposal. In response to the Chair, Dean Blackwell clarified that the proposal was not intended to be reviewed for approval, but rather was before the Senate Council (SC) for input. In response to all the concerns, Dean Blackwell said that she would return the proposal to the Graduate Council for further review.

4. [Senate's Rules and Elections Committee Report](#)

The Chair invited the Senate's Rules and Elections Committee chair, Doug Michael, to offer information on the documents prepared by the Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC).

[I. Missing Grade Language Codification](#)

Michael explained that the SREC codified language in *Senate Rules (SR) 5.1.6* to accommodate the notation of "---" as indicating a grade is missing, and to revise the language regarding the use of "***" to indicate that it would only symbolize a course in progress.

Lesnaw **moved** to send the codification of the missing grade language in *SR 5.1.6* to the Senate with a positive recommendation, to be effective immediately upon Senate approval. Harley **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** unanimously.

[II. Oral Communications Suspension "Note" Language](#)

Michael explained that the change was made to move the language in *SR 5.4.3.3* about the current suspension of the oral communications requirement until fall 2009 from a "Note" to a dedicated section "C." There were also some miscellaneous changes to improve readability and organization of the section.

Finkel **moved** to send the proposed changes to *SR 5.4.3.3* to the Senate with a positive recommendation, to be effective immediately upon Senate approval. Aken **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** unanimously.

III. Clarification of “Drop” vs. “Withdrawal”

Michael explained that in the process of codifying changes to the withdrawal period made by the Senate at its May 7, 2007 meeting, the SREC was confronted with interpretations and inconsistencies in *SR 5.1.8.1*, *SR 5.1.8.2*, and *SR 5.1.8.3*. Specifically, the terms “drop” and “withdrawal” were used inconsistently and somewhat interchangeably.

Michael agreed to a suggestion by Finkel to modify¹ the new language in the last sentence of *SR 5.1.8.2.B.1* to read: “~~This~~**Such withdrawal** is also known as “dropping a course.””

Lesnaw **moved** to send the changes to *SR 5.1.8.1*, *SR 5.1.8.2* and *SR 5.1.8.3*, including the change from “This” to “Such withdrawal” in *SR 5.1.8.2.B.1* to the Senate with a positive recommendation, to be effective immediately upon Senate approval. Aken **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** unanimously.

IV. Duplicate Credit and Repeat Clarification

Michael recalled that in April 2007, the SC reviewed a proposal to insert a new section after *SR 5.3.1.1* (“*Repeat Options*”) to address the issue of duplicate credit. During that meeting, the SC made some revisions to the original proposal and approved it with the condition that it first be returned to the SREC to reconcile the proposed new language with existing language in *SR 5.3.1.1*.

Harley **moved** to send the revised language of the new *SR 5.3.1.2* (“*Prohibition of Duplicate Credit*”) and subsequent section renumbering with an effective date of spring 2008, to the University Senate with a positive recommendation. Wood **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** unanimously.

V. Third Bachelor’s Degree

Michael explained that the SREC was unable to clarify the question of whether or not a third bachelor’s degree was allowed, because there was no reference to a third bachelor’s degree in the *SR*. Thus, there was nothing to interpret.

SC members suggested that the question of whether or not to allow a third bachelor’s degree (or fourth, etc.) be referred to an appropriate Senate committee, with the suggestion that the associated considerations outlined in the language on second bachelor’s degrees should also be addressed if, and only if, the committee determined that third bachelor’s degrees should be allowed. In addition, the committee should consider the appropriate use of resources involved with a student pursuing multiple bachelor’s degrees, versus the use of the same resources (course size, teaching load, etc.) for a student seeking a first bachelor’s degree.

¹ The strikethrough text is the revised language that was removed, and the bold text is the new language added to the revised language.

1. Minutes from August 27 and Announcements

There being no changes to the minutes from August 27, they stood as approved.

The Chair recognized Dembo, who asked to make an announcement. Dembo explained that during the semester, he and Yanarella had been meeting with the faculty of every college. The information gleaned from such meetings had been and would continue to be put to use during the Dembo's and Yanarella's deliberations as Board of Trustees members, as well as for use as a possible bellwether of issues the SC should address. Once the comments were assembled, Dembo said that he and Yanarella would bring such issues to the SC.

6. SC Liaisons to Other Councils

The Chair asked SC members to think about volunteering to serve as a liaison to one of the Senate's other councils – the [Graduate](#), [Undergraduate](#) or [Health Care Colleges](#) Council. After brief discussion, Lesnaw volunteered to continue to serve as the liaison to the Health Care Colleges Council. Harley said that she was willing to serve as liaison to the Undergraduate Council, but her SC term ended in December 2007. The Chair replied that if he was unable to find someone to serve for both the fall 2007 and spring 2008 semester, it would be fine if Harley served for both semesters, not just through the end of her SC term.

Because the previous year's liaison to the Graduate Council was not present, SC members expressed a desire to wait and check with that person prior to identifying another liaison.

5. Senate Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Senate Committee Structure

After a brief description of the purpose of the SC ad hoc Committee on Senate Committee Structure (CSCS), the Chair opened the floor for suggestions.

SC members suggested the names of four individuals who could serve. Lesnaw **moved** that those four individuals be contacted to determine if they were willing and able to serve on the CSCS. Wood **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned shortly before 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kaveh Tagavi,
Senate Council Chair

SC Members in attendance: Aken, Dembo, Finkel, Harley, Lesnaw, Michael, Randall, Storm, Tagavi, Wood.

Provost's Liaison in attendance: Greissman.

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on September 27, 2007.