

University Senate
October 10, 2011

The University Senate met in regular session at 3 pm in the Auditorium of W. T. Young Library on Monday, October 10, 2011. All votes were taken via a show of hands unless indicated otherwise.

Chair Hollie I. Swanson called the University Senate (Senate) meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

1. Minutes and Announcements

The Chair offered a presentation to the Senate. She said that the minutes from February 14, March 21, April 11, May 9 and September 12, 2011 were ready. She noted that the minutes from September were not sent out six days in advance, so she solicited a motion to waive *Senate Rules 1.2.3* to allow consideration of the September minutes.

Grossman **moved** to waive *Senate Rules 1.2.3* to allow consideration of the September minutes and Jones **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

Grossman **moved** to approve the Senate minutes from February 14, March 21, April 11, May 9 and September 12, 2011. Fiedler **seconded**. There being no objections, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

The Chair offered a variety of announcements to senators.

2. Officer and Other Reports

a. Chair

The Chair reported on the survey responses received as a result of the email President Capilouto sent out regarding the Executive Review Committee's report – over 400 responses were received in a 24-hour period. She said that forums were in the works to solicit additional input. Faculty with concerns about the report have primarily been concerned with the lack of attention paid to graduate education, so the Executive Review Committee will delve a little deeper into that area.

The Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leaders (COSFL) held a meeting recently and will hold an American Association of University Professors (AAUP) chapter formation meeting on November 15 from 1 – 5 pm in the W. T. Young Library Auditorium.

b. Vice Chair

Vice Chair Grossman explained that an experiment was being conducted in regards to video recording Senate meetings. Given the workload of the Senate Council Office and the 1.5 employees, Grossman was leading an effort to see about the logistics involved in reallocating funds toward increased personnel hours.

c. Parliamentarian

Parliamentarian J.S. Butler offered a few comments to senators, including the uses of unanimous consent, receiving a committee report, adopting a committee report, and the fact that the parliamentary position was strictly advisory to the Chair, not binding.

d. Trustee Peek

Faculty trustee Peek offered SC members an overview of the Board of Trustees' recent weekend retreat. Senators asked a variety of questions, which Peek answered. Many questions pertained to new facilities and how to fund them.

3. SACS Reaffirmation Update – Interim Vice President for Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness Heidi Anderson

Interim Vice President for Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness Heidi Anderson gave a presentation to senators. There were no questions from senators.

4. Quality Enhancement Plan Update – Diane Snow and Deanna Sellnow

Guests Diane Snow and Deanna Sellnow offered senators an update on the Quality Enhancement Plan topic, Multimodal Communication Across the Curriculum (MCXC). They answered a variety of questions from senators.

5. Proposed Changes to Senate Rules 5.2.4.7 (“Final Examinations”)

The Chair invited Jones, chair of the Senate's Rules and Elections Committee, to explain the issue, which he did. The Chair referred senators to the recommended motion from the SC. Steiner **moved** that the Senate approve the proposed new language of SR 5.2.4.7, effective immediately. Getchell **seconded**.

Senators debated the pros and cons of the proposed rule. In response to a question about whether the proposed language affected distance learning courses, Jones replied that if a distance learning course required a student to be at a particular place at a particular time, the proposed language applied to it.

Hulse **moved** to amend the proposed language to remove “in a particular place at a particular time” from the first sentence. Yost **seconded**. A **vote** was taken on the motion to amend, and the motion **failed** with a majority opposed.

A **vote** was taken on the **motion** that the Senate approve the proposed changed¹ language of SR 5.2.4.7 as described below, effective immediately.

5.2.4.7 Final Examinations

If an instructor is administering a final examination, and he or she is requiring students to take the exam in a particular place at a particular time, then he or she must administer the exam during the examination period scheduled by the Registrar [US: 10/10/11]

A. The Registrar shall schedule two-hour periods for final examinations for courses offered during the fall and spring semesters. The faculties of colleges that have Senate approval for their own special calendars may instruct the Registrar to schedule final examination periods of a different length. The Registrar shall schedule spring and fall semester final examination periods during the last five (5) days of the semester; that five-day period shall be preceded by a study day or weekend on which no classes or examinations for weekday classes will be scheduled. Final examinations for weekend classes will be administered the weekend before this five-day period and need not be preceded by a study day. [US: 4/9/01; 10/10/11]

¹ Underline formatting denotes added text, and strikethrough indicates deleted text.

B. The Registrar shall schedule final examinations for courses offered during the four-week summer term, the eight-week summer session, and winter intersession for the time of the last scheduled class period. [US: 10/11/11]

C. An instructor may allow students less than the full period scheduled by the Registrar to complete the final examination, but he or she must inform the students at least two weeks before the start of the examination how much time they will have to complete the examination (one week in advance for winter intersession, four-week summer term and eight-week summer session.) [US: 10/10/11]

In cases of take-home final examinations, students shall not be required to return the completed examination before the end of the regularly scheduled examination period. [US: 4/28/86; 10/10/11]

The motion **passed** with a majority in favor and 15 opposed.

The Chair suggested reordering the agenda to ensure quorum was present for the last item for which quorum was required. There were no objections.

7. Motion from Senate Council Regarding Summer Calendar

The Chair explained that a variety of other types of calendars had proliferated, such as courses during the summer that run for six weeks, or run from the beginning of the four-week session through the end of the eight-week session. She said that if a student was in a course that started with the beginning of summer I but ended in the middle of summer II, the student would have trouble going to University Health Service and receive care, since the system would show the student as not enrolled, since the four-week session would have already ended. She noted that the long-term suggestion from the SC is to form an ad hoc committee to look at calendar issues, but there was a short-term need to address non-standard calendars that have not received Senate approval.

Brion **moved** that the Senate permit 6-week courses that begin at the beginning of the 4-week session, and permit 6-week courses that begin two weeks after the beginning of the 8-week session, for summer 2012 only. Meyer **seconded**. A few senators took part in the discussion.

The following issues were raised:

- It is difficult to determine summer enrollment due to the non-standard summer session terms.
- Some courses on non-standard calendars have been used for quite some time and are of pedagogical use.
- Liability issues can occur when a course is placed on a calendar that has not received Senate approval.
- If the Senate does not approve the motion, none of the courses offered on a non-standard calendar will be offered in summer 2012, since they have not received Senate approval.
- Non-standard calendars should not have been allowed to begin with.

A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

6. A & S Wired Presentation

College of Arts and Sciences Dean Mark Kornbluh offered senators a presentation and introduced senators to the general ideas surrounding A & S Wired. Guest Cristina Alcalde (AS/Gender & Women's Studies), Nathan DeWall (AS/Psychology), and Guest Jeff Rice (AS/Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Media)

offered more specific information. Dean Kornbluh summed up by saying that A&S Wired was an effort to reinvigorate undergraduate education through faculty activities and incorporate student life outside the classroom into the learning experience. When the presentation was over, senators gave the presenters a round of applause.

8. Initial Discussion on Proposed New Policies on Faculty Productivity and Accountability

The Chair opined that faculty needed to have control over evaluation of peers regarding faculty productivity and accountability, post tenure. The Chair explained that there is a plan for campuswide vetting of how faculty performance should be assessed. The SC is asking for volunteers and wants broad campus representation on an ad hoc committee which will perform an initial vetting. (Volunteers do not need to be senators.) The committee will solicit input from college faculty councils and provide a recommendation for an overall plan for assessing faculty productivity. At the unit level, though, individual units/departments will be responsible for creating written statements for assessing post-tenure productivity and accountability. The Chair said the report needed to be presented to the SC by February 1, 2012, so that the Senate could hold its second reading on it in April 2012.

There being no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Grossman,
University Senate Secretary

Invited guests present: Cristina Alcalde, Jeff Price, Deanna Sellnow and Diane Snow.

Absences: Adams; Anderson, D.*; Anstead; Ballard; Bathon; Bensadoun; Birdwhistell; Blackwell*; Brennen; Capilouto; Davis; de Beer; DeSantis; Dupont-Versteegden*; Eckman; Ettensohn; Feddock*; Feist-Price; Ferrier*; Fielden; Hackbart; Harris; Heller; Jackson; Kirk; Lester; Martin*; Mazur; Mock; Mountford; O'Connor*; O'Hair, D.*; O'Hair, MJ; Richey; Scutchfield; Shannon; Smyth-Pinney; Speaks*; Stewart; Stombaugh; Subbaswamy; Tick; Tracy, J.; Tracy, T.; Turner; Voro; Wells; Witt; Wood.

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on Tuesday, November 8, 2011.

* Denotes an absence explained prior to the meeting.