

Minutes of the Senate meeting 1/13/05

Senators present

David Lerman	John Hancock	Mac Lafferty	Martha McKenna
DJ McGill	Marie Melton	Tamyra Turner	David Moyer
Patricia Franklin	Linda Hitt	Jane Kingston	Pat O'Rourke
Cliff Haury	Kathy Hudson	Ann Smith	Kit Decker

Guest: Simeon Ananou, our new CIO

Simeon called our attention to today's IT vendors' fair and gave updates on the spam filters, new email system, phone upgrade and plans for a wireless campus.

Guest: Mahmood Mogamizadeh

Mahmood briefed us on how he minimizes textbook costs for his economics students. 60% of his students do not buy books, some buy older editions: the bulk of the course material is stored within Blackboard. The material is divided into chapter summaries written by Honors students and updated by professor-designed models with statistics that are more current than those of even the most recent textbook. Students are also given a hard copy of the lecture notes so they have an accurate notes and material to read and review.

One particular concern about not using textbooks is that this is simply impractical for many courses and, moreover, faculty believe it is absolutely vital that students be encouraged to read.

Minutes were approved for both November and December.

We then split up into small workgroups to examine line by line the recommendations on reducing textbook costs that are to be forwarded to the president and on to the VCCS chancellor. (See below for the final group-edited version).

Kit Decker gave a brief update on the Academic Awards Day: we have the basic outline of a program that will be finalized over the next few weeks with more faculty and staff input.

Our discussion of the purpose of College Hour is postponed until our next meeting.

David Lerman asked for any thoughts on committee structure to be forwarded to him by email before we renew discussions on the subject next month.

Meetings for this semester will be held on the third Friday of each month at 2.30pm.

Motion to adjourn

Proposed: Mac Lafferty

Seconded: Pat O'Rourke

Result: all in favor of adjourning.

Respectfully submitted

Kit Decker, Secretary