

MINUTES
College Senate Meeting
Friday, February 15, 2008

Attendees: Tracy Cersley, Lynn Seuffert, Marie Melton, Kris Swanson, Kay Bethea, Bill Hurd, Mahmood Moghimzadeh, David Duvall-Early, Linda Cahill, James Klopp, Mark Fitzgerald, Rebecca Ward, Colleen Kehoe, Crystal Newell

Tracy Cersley greeted everyone and called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

The November minutes were approved unanimously.

Website Policy

The President wanted approval, rejection, or revisions and recommendations to the newly revised Website policy. He worked with Anita and considered the recommendations of the senate to improve the policy. Some felt the policy is now better and clearer. There was a question as to who is responsible for updating the webpage: Anita created a spreadsheet with this information (although it is not public), and some staff members have been trained. However, no faculty have been trained to date. A motion was put forth to accept the newly revised policy; it was approved unanimously.

The Role of the Senate

David Duvall-Early presented the faculty's concerns about the role of the Senate. The faculty feels that the Senate basically "rubber stamps" the actions of other committees, slows down the decision-making process, and is too large of a governing body to be effective. They also voiced concern over the uneven distribution of divisional representation on committees. For most committees, multiple faculty members from a division (e.g. Business) are required to serve. Also, the mandatory committee requirement counts as college service and is part of the faculty's IDP evaluation. Due to time constraints, this limits opportunities for other types of college service. James Klopp asked how much time was spent on committees and governance versus teaching. The faculty also feel a need for representation on ISS and President's Staff as well as more representation in government in general.

The FPA will need to consider the faculty's suggestions. At an FPA meeting, the faculty even suggested dissolving the Senate but had no alternatives so withdrew the idea. Some faculty suggested three "Senates" or governing groups consisting of a Staff Senate, Faculty Senate, and Student Senate who reported to an Executive Council. The Committees would report directly to the President. Mark Fitzgerald presented emails from various faculty members who reiterated the above statements. He also stressed that the Business Division is being squeezed due to the mandatory committee requirements. Basically, faculty want their

energy and time devoted to positive outputs. However, it was noted, that as the “voice” of the college, the Senate allows people to voice concerns about policy decisions.

Before the Senate, we had multiple committees but no governing structure for approval that represented the college as a whole. The Senate has the power to initiate action as well as approve the work of other committees. Several years ago, the Senate took action by reducing the size of the committees. David Duvall-Early envisions a process similar to the one used by the C&I committee where a subcommittee works on a particular issue, presents it to the committee for review and by the time C&I meets, the item is ready to vote on. However, it was noted that that is how the Standing Committees and Senate act. Also, some policies need to be handled administratively; therefore, the Senate does not need to be involved, while some committees do produce enough work to be reviewed by the Senate.

In order to address the concerns of the faculty, it was suggested that the Standing Committees reduce membership by 25% and more equitably distribute faculty representation along division lines. (Currently the Standing Committees report to the Senate who has jurisdiction over them.) The committees should present a proposal to the Senate outlining their plans for reduction. David Duvall-Early suggested that the Senate lead by example and also reduce their membership. Concern was raised about reducing administrators' role on committees such as C&I, for example, if this reduction occurs.

A subcommittee will need to be formed to investigate David Duvall-Early's recommendation and revise the Senate's by-laws. Volunteers for the subcommittee were Tracy Cersley, Bill Hurd, David Duvall-Early, and James Klopp. If a resolution is recommended by the subcommittee, 2/3 of the people present at the 1st Senate meeting will need to approve the resolution. Then, two weeks later, the full senate will vote on the amendment to the by-laws. In order to pass the amendment, 2/3 of all Senate representatives will need to agree. In addition to the subcommittee, Tracy will email Amy Gillespie for clarification on the faculty's Senate proposal. The Senate would like to know: If the FPA has endorsed this suggestion? Is this a formal resolution? How does this suggestion address the faculty's issues? Also, the Senate would like an approval process map to show how a policy would flow through the various Senates.

Committee Reports

Administrative Services

Discussed locking classrooms and the importance of students not knowing the pass-codes. Security is currently handing out parking tickets. The inclement weather system is working well. There will be some road issues during the science building construction. Dr. Jackameit is looking at some contractual issues including Little John's hours. Recycling is currently handled through UVA,

but glass and metal would be voluntary. Parking lot call-boxes will be installed through a grant initiative in order to increase parking lot safety. The new science building is not included in this initiative.

C&I

Reviewed the Career Studies Certificate programs for Drawing and Painting – these will no longer be offered. Apprenticeships for cellar worker and vineyard worker have been approved for both credit and non-credit. There has been a schedule change for exams, option 4 was chosen. It will be piloted fall '08.

Information Technology

Approved the IT Asset Management – Configuration Management and Change Control policy. These are guidelines from the state. Exceptions can be made for any IT changes that affect teaching. The Senate will vote on this standard next month.

Personnel and Benefits

No report

Planning and Budgeting

Strategic initiatives are due to Tara even though budgets may be tighter next fiscal year.

Student Services

No report.

SGA

No report

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Next meeting is March 21st.

Submitted by,
Crystal Newell