

February 2007

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE
February 26, 2007

1. Moderator Murphy officially called the regular meeting of the University Senate of February 26, 2007 to order at 4:04 p.m. in Room 7 of the Bishop Center.

2. Approval of Minutes

Moderator Murphy presented the minutes from the regular meeting of January 29, 2007 for review.

The minutes were approved without modification.

3. Report of the Provost

The Provost entertained questions from the Senate. Senator Moiseff asked how the decision to cancel classes due to inclement weather was determined. Senator Nicholls responded that the decision is made early in the morning (3:00 to 4:00 am) and reaffirmed that he believed that the decisions so far this year have been prudent and correct. Senator Makowsky added that the Connecticut State Police call in the early hours and advise on the weather conditions on campus and the roads leading to campus. The decision is based on these data. Senator Makowsky reminded the Senate that the local conditions in Storrs do not always mirror those in other parts of the state and that many staff, faculty, and students commute from some distance. The State Police are consulted because they have a better overview of the conditions on all of the state's highways.

Senator Schultz asked about the research quadrangle project and the Torrey Life Sciences Building renovation project. He expressed concern that the planning report from JRR concerning the project was delayed. Senator Nicholls responded that he was unaware of the lateness of the report. He added that JRR and the university are gathering data for the decisions. The decision involves projections concerning enrollment, staffing in departments, and future research potential. A committee is currently consulting impacted departments and gathering data to submit to JRR.

Senator Maurudis requested an update on the Dubai project. Senator Nicholls reiterated that no state money should be involved in this project. Senator Nicholls stated there is a good deal of work to be done by UConn and that the signing of a contract with the Dubai educational authorities to cover the cost of the work is a prerequisite for continuation of the project. In addition, there are concerns regarding the participation by scholars with Israeli passports and other human rights issues. Provost Nicholls stated UConn will not move forward until such issues are resolved.

4. Senator DeWolf presented the Report of the Senate Executive Committee.

(See Attachment #30)

5. Associate Vice Provost Keith Barker presented the Report of the Commencement Committee.

K. Barker spoke on behalf of Senator Darre, the Chair of the Commencement Committee. K. Barker explained the past practice for commencement ceremonies and stated with the recent reorganization of some of the schools and colleges, certain ceremonies have become too large to be housed in Gampel Pavilion. In order to relieve this congestion, three deans volunteered to hold separate school-based ceremonies: Pharmacy, Fine Arts, and Education. To streamline the graduate ceremonies as well, candidates for the Doctor of Pharmacy degree will be presented on May 5th in a separate ceremony.

K. Barker explained the times and places for the new graduation ceremonies. The Deans affected will be responsible for the actual organization and conduct of the various smaller ceremonies, while all externals--security, signage, parking etc.--will be the responsibility of the university.

Senator Caira inquired about graduation speakers, specifically, now that there are additional ceremonies, will there be additional speakers and how will they be selected? K. Barker responded that at the speakers for the smaller ceremonies will be decided by the deans concerned, while at the larger Gampel ceremonies the same procedures will be used that have been followed in the past.

6. Senator Faustman presented the Report of the Growth and Development Committee.
(See Attachment #31)
7. Senator Kurland presented the Report of the Student Welfare Committee.
(See Attachment #32)

Senator Mannheim inquired about the mechanism that allows courses to be moved after registration for courses has begun. Senator von Munkwitz-Smith responded there are presently few formal controls or review procedures in place but added that while the Registrar's Office discourages it, changes are sometimes necessary. He gave as an example occasions when a particular faculty member is no longer able to teach a particular class and the time must be reassigned to another instructor who is not available at the originally-scheduled hour.

8. Senator Moiseff presented the Report of the Scholastic Standards Committee.
(See Attachment #33)
9. Senator Bansal presented the Report of the Nominating Committee.
(See Attachment #34)

- I. The Committee moved that Katharina von Hammerstein be appointed to a three-year term as Chair of the General Education Oversight Committee (GEOC) effective August 24, 2007 through August 23, 2010.

The motion carried.

- II. The Committee moved that Cora Lynn Deibler replace Anne D'Alleva on the General Education Oversight Committee with a term ending of June 30, 2008.

The motion carried.

- III. The Committee moved that Michael Brezak replace Brittany Kwalek as an undergraduate student representative on the General Education Oversight Committee.

The motion carried.

10. Senator Jeffers presented the Report of the Curricula and Courses Committee.

(See Attachment #35)

I. Motion on Registration Restrictions for 3xxx, 4xxx Courses

Background:

Under the current numbering system 200-level courses are restricted to students who are juniors or above. Under the new system these classes will be open to all students who meet the prerequisites. Some departments will want to keep the current enrollment restrictions for these classes. To maintain the restriction they will need to add a line indicating the restriction to the catalog description. This could involve a large number of courses.

Motion:

For current 200 level, general education courses not open to sophomores, requiring Senate of GEOC approval for catalog changes, that will be listed at the 3000 or 4000 level under the new numbering system, the following line may be added by departments "open only to juniors or higher" when this change is consistent with current course requirements. Schools and Colleges may submit a list of courses requiring this addition to catalog copy directly to the Registrar's office, submitting a copy to the Senate Curricula and Courses committee for informational purposes only.

Procedures will be as follows: Once approved by the appropriate School or College, each department is to send to the Office of the Registrar a list of all courses for which they want to preserve the current restrictions on the status of the student population who may register for a course. The Office of the Registrar will preserve these settings in the computer system and will add any necessary wording in the print and on-line catalog.

The motion carried.

11. Senator Jeffers presented the Annual Report of the Curricula and Courses Committee

(See Attachment #36)

12. New Business – none.

13. There was a motion to adjourn.

The motion was approved by a standing vote of the Senate.

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert F. Miller
Senate Secretary

The following members and alternates were absent from the February 26, 2007 meeting:

Allison, Peter
Anderson, Greg
Aronson, Lorraine
Austin, Philip
Becker, Loftus
Bergman, Theodore
Britner, Preston
Broadbent, Erica
Bull, Nancy
Cook, Bradford
Darre, Michael
Eby, Clare
Engel, Gerald
English, Gary
Evanovich, M. Dolan

Facchinetti, Neil
Feldman, Barry
Gianutsos, Gerald
Hart, Ian
Hightower, Lawrence
Hiskes, Anne
Holzworth, R.J.
Kaufman, Douglas
Kehrhahn, Marijke
Kelly, Kristin
Kendall, Debra
Kerr, Kirklyn
Korbel, Donna
Lowe, Charles
Marsden, James

McGavran, Dennis
Myers, Kathryn
Olson, Sherri
Rummel, Jeffrey
Saddlemire, John
Salamone, John
Sanchez, Lisa
Schaefer, Carl
Schwab, Richard
Sidney, Stuart
Simmons, Robin
Singha, Suman
Strausbaugh, Linda
Taylor, Ronald
Williams, Michelle