MINUTES
UNIVERSITY SENATE
December 7, 2000


ORDER: The chair, President Carl Patton, called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

MINUTES: The minutes of the October 5, 2000, meeting were approved with no amendments.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR: President Patton commented that at this time of the year he is spending time visiting with Board of Regents members and legislators. He and other university presidents are working on the issue of salary increases. He is continuing to work with the private sector to secure additional housing for married students, international students, and graduate students. This project appears to be moving forward and he hopes to have additional information when the university returns after the holiday break. Dr. Patton announced the annual holiday party and extended his best wishes for a wonderful holiday break.

NEW BUSINESS: Dr. Patton called on Hugh Hudson to report for the Executive Committee. Dr. Hudson stated that the Executive Committee recommends a "do pass" on all motions.

1. **Motion to create a Banner Conversion Task Force** presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. This task force would serve as a means for academic input for quick answers to academic questions in the course of converting to the Banner system. This is modeled after the Semester Conversion Task Force. Tim Crimmins suggested a friendly amendment: add "or at the completion of the Banner conversion" to the sentence "The BCT will cease to exist at the end of December 2002." Dr. Rainbolt accepts the friendly amendment. The question was called. The motion passed.

2. **Motion on revise the scholastic discipline rules and the Academic Improvement Program** presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. With the dissolution of the Academic Foundations Department and the creation of the Student Advisement Center, some stylistic revisions were required in the scholastic discipline rules. One substantive change was made in the requirements for supervision and suspension. The question was called. The motion passed.

3. **Motion to revise the policy on amorous relationships** presented by the Faculty Affairs Committee; Diane Willen, chair. This proposal would revise policy in the Faculty Handbook regarding potential conflict of interest in amorous and/or sexual relationships. The original policy was not included because there was a great deal of stylistic changes. The major substantive change is that a sexual relationship between a teacher and a student over whom he or she has supervisory responsibilities is prohibited rather than "strongly discouraged". This is the essence of the change. The motion was seconded. George Rainbolt asked if the committee considered a blanket ban on relationships between faculty and undergraduates below the age of 23 or 24 and, if this was considered, why was it rejected. Marian Meyers, chair of this subcommittee, stated that the committee was mindful of the history of trying to pass a policy of this kind. In the past there has been much discussion and disagreement over issues like the one suggested by Dr. Rainbolt. The subcommittee wanted to get a basic policy passed. Hugh Hudson stated that this is a very important issue as it sets up grounds for dismissal for tenured faculty. Bea Yorker stated that this proposed policy has been passed at the University of Virginia and at many other institutions as well. A question was raised regarding the situation of a faculty member teaching his or her own spouse. Dr. Meyers stated that the committee felt that it was not appropriate for a faculty member to be grading his or her spouse’s work and that there are ways around that: a colleague or the department chair could handle the grading and other such duties. Jerry Edwards asked that the question be called. A vote was taken and it was decided to continue the discussion.
Tim Crimmins suggested a friendly amendment: delete the word "Therefore" at the beginning of the first paragraph on the back of the proposal. Dr. Willen accepted this friendly amendment. Discussion continued. Dr. Patton stated that the motion on the floor is a change to an already approved policy. Dr. Meyers stated that the subcommittee did get input from the Legal Affairs Office regarding this issue. The question was called. The motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS


**Admissions and Standards** (George Rainbolt, chair): The committee has met several times and is considering a number of issues: increasing freshman and sophomore retention rates, "W" policy, and possible mid-term grade reports for students at risk. The committee is also working with Faculty Affairs and IS&T on issues pertaining to e-courses.

**Athletics** (Debra Snell, chair): The committee has met once since the last Senate meeting. Agenda items included the revenue and expenditure report, FY2002 athletic fee increase request, and an update on facilities and personnel.

**Budget** (Fenwick Huss, chair): The committee has met once since the last Senate meeting and the major agenda items were enrollment and revenue reports and the action plan to recruit and retain diverse faculty.

**Commencement** (Carl Patton, chair): The committee meets regularly and has been discussing the new procedures for commencement starting Fall semester as the students will no longer be receiving their "live" diplomas at the ceremony. Faculty should be prepared to answer questions regarding this change. Commencement will be December 17 at 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Herman Russell will be receiving an honorary degree at the 5:00 p.m. ceremony.

**Committee of Chairs** (Hugh Hudson, chair): The Committee of Chairs has met twice since the last Senate meeting. At one of the meetings Vice President Scott addressed the group and at the other meeting Vice President Louis came.

**Cultural Diversity** (Nannette Commander and Deborah Whitley, co-chairs): Dr. Whitley reported that the committee has met once since the last Senate meeting. The committee has been discussing the 2000 action plan to recruit and retain diverse faculty as well as the staff assessment survey.

**Executive** (Hugh Hudson, chair): Dr. Hudson referred the Senate members to the committee report that was distributed as the Senators came in to the meeting. This report summarizes the three main items discussed at the November 7 committee retreat: faculty satisfaction and retention, the use and possible misuse of non-tenure track faculty, and the allocation of mandatory student fees.

**Faculty Affairs** (Diane Willen, chair): The committee has met twice since the last Senate meeting. The committee endorsed the task force report on the status and advancement of women and suggested that it be reviewed by the Budget Committee, the Research Committee, the Deans Group, and any other interested parties for further consideration and recommendations.

**FACP** (Ron Henry, chair): The committee has met several times. The committee has made its recommendations on the student technology fee allocation. It has been hearing presentations from those groups requesting student fee increases. The committee will meet on Friday to finalize its recommendations on student fee increases. These recommendations must be forwarded to the Board of Regents by December 15.

**Information Systems and Technology** (Bill Evans, chair): The committee has met twice since the last Senate meeting. Agenda items included a proposal to use e-mail as an official means of communication between the university and its various units and students, e-course issues, information and network security, classroom technology support, and classroom computer facilities.

**Library Advisory** (Philo Hutcheson, chair): The committee has met twice since the last Senate meeting. The committee has an ongoing discussion on the budget and the distribution of resources.

**Nominations** (Dave Vanko, chair): No report.

**Planning and Development** (P. C. Tai, chair): The committee has met once since the last Senate meeting. Tom Lewis and DeAnna Hines came to discuss public relations and the strategic plan. The committee endorsed a temporary website for the university. The committee heard an update on facilities and discussed the action plan.

**Research** (Mary Ann Romski, chair): The committee has met twice since the last Senate meeting. The committee met with Katherine Johnston, the new Vice President for Finance and Administration, to discuss research issues, human resources, and
the Spectrum System. The committee approved the new Center for Health Sciences Research. The committee has discussed and will bring forward suggestions for the action plan for the strategic plan related to research. The committee received its first report from Vice President Louis. The committee is examining the internal grants program and is participating in the ad hoc task forces on the advancement of women and cultural diversity.

**Statutes and Bylaws** (Amy Lederberg for Murray Brown, chair): The committee has met twice since the last Senate meeting. The committee is examining the issue of Senate committee membership and finding it difficult to reach agreement on what the language means. The committee may draft new language to clarify this issue.

**Student Discipline** (Ralph Gilbert, chair): The committee has met once since the last Senate meeting and dealt successfully with a difficult situation. It will meet again later this month or in early January.

**Student Life and Development** (Kurt Keppler and Jerry Edwards, co-chairs): Dr. Keppler reported that the committee has met three times. The committee has been discussing student fee requests, code of conduct alterations, student group charter renewals, and has met with Banner Implementation team members about feedback from students.

OLD BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Since there was no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

Gayla Domke, Secretary
University Senate

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