

September 2001

Minutes September 10, 2001

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

1. The regular meeting of the University Senate of September 10, 2001 was called to order by President Austin at 4:10 p.m. in Room 7, Bishop Center.
2. Ms. Bridges nominated David Palmer to serve as Moderator of the Senate. There were no other nominations. Mr. Palmer was elected.
3. Mr. Palmer assumed the chair as Moderator.
4. Mr. Zirakzadeh nominated David Jordan and Uwe Koehn as Secretaries of the Senate. There were no other nominations. Mr. Jordan and Mr. Koehn were elected.
5. Mr. Stave nominated three alternate moderators, Cynthia Adams, Scott Brown and Peter Halvorson to substitute for Mr. Palmer if he is unable to attend or must leave a Senate meeting early. There were no other nominations. Ms. Adams, Mr. Brown and Mr. Halvorson were elected.
6. Following the usual practice, the members of the Senate stood and introduced themselves.
7. Mr. Frank informed the Senate of the death of Gary Epling, Professor and Head of Chemistry. He said:

"It is with great sadness and regret that I inform you of the sudden death of Gary Epling, Professor of Chemistry and Head of our Department, who suffered a heart attack at his home yesterday afternoon. Gary was a world-renowned Organic Photochemist, an excellent teacher in the classroom and laboratory, a leader who consistently put the interests of his faculty colleagues above his own, and an articulate spokesman for the Department of Chemistry and the University as a whole. He was also a good friend. He will be sorely missed. Please join me in a moment of silence in his memory. There will be a memorial service at 3 p.m. on Thursday at St. Thomas Aquinas."

The Senate observed a moment of silence in Professor Epling's honor.

8. The minutes of meeting of May 14, 2001 were approved as distributed.
9. Mr. Palmer distributed a sheet about Senate procedures and discussed them. They follow Robert's Rules of Order and are the same as last year.
10. Mr. Zirakzadeh, Chair of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) discussed the duties of the Senate and its position within the University. He described the constituencies from which Senators are elected and the ex-officio members. He stated that undergraduate education was the Senate's main concern. He described the culture of the Senate as formal, funny, and fussy. There is an intense and thorough discussion of ideas, which may mean that the Senate will move slowly at times.
11. The Report of the President was delivered by Mr. Austin.

He described how he met alone with the SEC monthly. This method of meeting allowed a good level of candor. He followed with a brief report of his discussion with the SEC.

a. In discussing the incoming freshman class, he reported that it consisted of 30% out-of-state students. He did not foresee any increase above this percentage. The level of SAT scores did not increase significantly as opposed to previous years, nor did the number of high school valedictorians and salutatorians.

- b. The campus dislocations are expected to be over in two to three years. Now opened are the new parking garage and Hilltop apartments. The School of Business building is partially opened, and the Co-op is expected to be opened in three months. The first stage of the renovations of the Wilbur Cross building are complete and are consumer friendly. The Equestrian Center is about ready.
- c. Although the US News and World report is not that important, it does have an effect on parents. The University's ranking has moved up from 38th to 28th.
- d. Work has restarted on the Bioscience building. Work had been stopped because the University had fired the contractor for various reasons, such as not paying the subcontractors. Its completion will be late.
- e. The University has a serious problem with animal research. The number of animal labs will be reduced to three or four to allow for better oversight. We are working for accreditation from the US Department of Agriculture. UConn is currently at the bottom of the list overseen by our Agriculture official, but he sees a good improvement in attitude. The University will strive to remove the stupid hoops that researchers must go through. The Hartford Courant is currently on campus gathering information for a story about the matter.
- f. The status of the budget from the state is unknown. There is a view that a recession is inevitable.
- g. The capital campaign is half way to its goal of \$300 million. Mr. Austin thanked the Professors, Deans and Vice President Allenby. \$56 million was collected this year, while the goal was \$43 million. This success will make it harder to beat the result next year.
12. Mr. Zirakzadeh delivered the report of the Senate Executive Committee. (See Attachment #1)
13. Mr. Anderson delivered the report of the Nominating Committee.
He moved the appointment of the following individuals to the noted committees:
- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Curricula and Courses | Frank Costigliola |
| | Michael Darre (replacing Derek Allinson) |
| Scholastic Standards | Donna Fournier |
- He moved the appointment of the following undergraduate students to one-year terms on the listed committees:
- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Curricula and Courses | John Ireland |
| | Lisa Minott |
| Faculty Standards | Jennifer Sykes |
| Growth and Development | David Pendrys |
| | Sarah Klingmeyer |
| Scholastic Standards | Ryan Kehoe |
| | Jason Purzycki |
| Student Welfare | Joseph Waller |
| | Ryan Byrne |
| University Budget | Ryan Byrne |
| | Matt Stabile |

14. Mr. Gianutsos, delivering the report of the Scholastic Standards Committee, moved that:

The SSC recommends that the Rules, Regulations and By-Laws of the Senate be amended as follows (old language lined out, new language in brackets):

II.B.10 *Adding or Dropping Courses*

(Renumbered as 9 on 5/10/82; Rev. 12/10/84; 9/12/88)

Students must consult with their academic advisor prior to adding or dropping courses.

If a particular course requires consent, a student must obtain that consent before adding that course.

Students may add courses during the first ~~two weeks~~ [seven days of classes] of a semester without special permissions. A student may add courses ~~during the third or~~ [from the eighth day of classes through the] fourth week of classes in exceptional circumstances and with the consent of the student's advisor, the course instructor, and the head of the department offering the course. After the fourth week, the permission of the student's dean is also required.

Students may drop courses ~~before the end of the second week~~ [through the seventh day of classes of the semester] without ~~penalty~~ a "W" being recorded on his or her academic record. After the ~~second week~~ [seventh day of classes] of the semester and through the ninth week a student may drop one course for any reason ~~without a grade penalty~~ but will have a "W" (for withdrawal) recorded on his or her academic record. Unless on the recommendation of the advisor an exception is made by the dean of the school or college in which the student is enrolled, no student is permitted to drop a course after the ninth week of classes or to drop more than one course after the ~~second week~~ [seventh day]. Exceptions are made only for extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control. Poor academic performance is not considered sufficient reason for dropping a course after the ninth week.

(Rev. 2/24/94; deadline changed from 4th to 9th week)

During the first ~~two weeks~~ [seven days of classes] of the semester, course section changes do not require advisor consultation. After the ~~second week~~ [seventh day of classes], course section changes require the same authorizations as other add/drop transactions.

(Added after the fifth paragraph 12/9/85)

A student who during the first ~~two weeks~~ [five days of classes] does not attend any classes or laboratories of a course in which he or she is enrolled may be denied a place in the course (See Class Attendance, II.E.7). [In such cases, the instructor may request in writing that the Registrar drop the student from the class.] Such non-attendance, or non-attendance later in the semester, does not constitute withdrawal; [if the instructor has not requested that the Registrar drop the student from the class,] the student must officially drop the course by regular procedures or risk being assigned a failing grade.

Only with the consultation of the advisor and consent of the dean of the school or college in which the student is enrolled may an undergraduate student be registered for fewer than 12 credits. In considering a schedule with fewer than 12 credits, students should note the regulations concerning part-time students, scholastic probation and dismissal (see II.B.3.4 and II.E.11), and financial aid.

A student who withdraws from a full-year course at the close of the first semester shall, if he or she has passed the course, receive credit for the work of the first semester unless it is announced in the catalog that the course must be taken in its entirety, in which case the credit shall be withheld until the course is completed.

Students at the University's regional campuses are subject to all regulations governing adding and dropping courses except that the course instructors act for the department heads and the regional campus director acts for the dean.

In summer sessions a student may drop a course through the ~~fourth~~ [third] day of classes without a "W" being recorded on the academic record. A summer session student who has been admitted to a school or college of the University should consult the dean of that school or college for permission to drop after the eighth day of classes.

II.E.8 *Class Attendance*

(2nd para. revised, 3rd para. added 12/10/84)

The faculties of the University consider attendance at classes a privilege which is extended to students when they are admitted to the University and for as long as they are in good standing. The Instructor concerned is given the full and final authority (except in the case of final examinations) to decide whether or not a student is permitted to make up work missed by absence and on what terms.

Instructors are expected to turn in marks which indicate the extent to which the student has mastered the work of the course. In some courses, the demonstration of mastery may depend in part on classroom activity (e.g., oral recitation or discussion or laboratory work). In such courses, absences may affect the student's accomplishments and so be reflected in grading, however, marks are not to be reduced merely because of a student's absences as such. In all courses instructors are expected to indicate at the beginning of the semester how they will determine the student's marks.

As an exception to the general rule concerning absences, if a student does not attend any of the classes or laboratories of a course during the first ~~two weeks~~ [five days of classes] of the semester and does not notify the Department of Student Affairs of the reasons for his or her absence, the instructor may assign his or her seat to another student. Such non-attendees may, after the ~~second week~~ [fifth day of classes], request to continue in the course on the same basis as a student not registered for the course.

If space is not available for such a non-attende, ~~the student must drop the course by the regular procedure or risk being assigned a failing grade~~ [the instructor may request the Registrar drop the student from the class] (See II.B.9, paragraph 7)."

There was considerable discussion. Senator Miller said that the change would cause difficulty for the performing arts. Mr. Gianutsos replied that faculty members could allow changes. Mr. Sidney stated that freshmen needed more time to learn where they belong in the mathematics sequence. Mr. Mannheim suggested that seven days were not enough, since two weeks were needed for all classes to meet at least once. Ms. Bramble said that the change would cause difficulties for the regional campuses. Mr. Petersen said that in the future the calendar would be more regular. Ms. Caira suggested waiting until the calendar is settled. Mr. Hattayer said the change would cause W's to be added to student record.

Mr. Anderson moved and it was seconded that the motion be returned to committee.

The motion to return to committee passed.

15. Under Unfinished Business, Mr. English presented the following three motions to regulate debate about the General Education Requirements (GER).

Motion #1:

Mr. English moved

"that we suspend the rules of the Senate that require main motions or amendments that have the effect of a main motion to be voted on during the meeting in which they are made. This applies only to these motions regarding the reform of the General Education Requirements and for the 2001-2002 academic year."

Since this motion limits the rights of senators, it needed a two-thirds majority for approval.

The motion was passed.

Motion #2:

Mr. English moved

"that we divide the question currently facing the Senate regarding General Education Reform into three parts and that we consider them in reverse order:

Part One: Competencies

Part Two: Content Areas

Part Three: Implementation"

In discussion of motion #2, other divisions were suggested. Mr. Kessel said a vote of overall approval was needed. Moderator Palmer informed the Senate that a final overall vote would be taken. Mr. Zirakzadeh said he had a problem with the reverse order.

The motion was defeated by a show of hands 31-32.

At this point, Mr. Brown assumed the Chair as Moderator.

It was moved

"that we divide the question currently facing the Senate regarding General Education Reform into three parts:

Part One: Competencies

Part Two: Content Areas

Part Three: Implementation"

The motion passed.

Mr. English presented Motion #3, moving

"that debate on motions regarding the General Education Requirements be limited to five minutes each time a member speaks."

Mr. Mannheim moved an amendment to the motion.

"that the time restriction should not apply to the Chair of the Senate Curricula and Courses Committee."

The motion to amend was seconded.

The motion to amend was defeated.

The original motion passed.

Mr. English informed the Senate that he intended to make a motion at the October 15 meeting to discuss the motion as a Quasi Meeting of the Whole for one hour. This will allow for a broader dialog for the discussion of the GER to help the Senate membership to fully understand any remaining questions about the current General Education Requirements proposal.

In discussing the schedule for consideration of the GER, Mr. Halvorson said that the schedule should not be set now. Mr. Mannheim said he liked the proposed schedule. Mr. Halvorson said it was enough that the Senate set schedules at each of its meetings as needed. Mr. English said the people would be informed when amendments are scheduled to be considered.

16. There was no New Business.
17. Mr. Halvorson warned the Senate that it might need to meet often.
18. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Uwe Koehn, Secretary

The following members and alternates were absent from the September 10, 2001 meeting:

Edward Allenby	Ellen Cromley	Sherri Olson
Thomas Anderson	Maureen Croteau	Jeremy Paul
Lorraine Aronson	Dale Dreyfuss	Pamela Roberts
Barbara Beliveau	Paul Goodwin	Susan Spiggle
Tracie Bordon	Ian Hart	Ronald Taylor
Larry Bowman	Kent Holsinger	Kathleen Usher
Boris Bravo-Ureta	Faquir Jain	Charles Vinsonhaler
Ryan Byrne	Fred Maryanski	Tixiang Wang
Kim Chambers	Judith Meyer	Steven Wisensale

ATTACHMENT #1

Report

Senate Executive Committee
September 10, 2001

The Senate Executive Committee has met three times since the last meeting of the University Senate: in early June, on August 24, and on September 7.

In early June, the SEC met with Peter Halvorson, Chair of the University's Calendar Revision Committee, who discussed the Committee's current Draft Proposal.

The next SEC meeting, on August 24, had three stages or parts. The Committee first met in closed session with President Austin to discuss University-wide concerns. Topics included campus construction and building renovation, the size and characteristics of the incoming undergraduate class, and the size, talents, and promise of the most recently hired members of the faculty. President Austin and individual members of the SEC also shared information and exchanged opinions about animal-research policy; freedom of speech, freedom of dissent, and student demonstrations on campus; and trends in graduate education. No specific policies were endorsed or criticized; there was simply a frank conversation about the complex issues and practical dilemmas inherent in all of these topics.

The Senate Executive Committee then met with the Senate's Chairs of Standing Committees. Senator Peter Halvorson reported on the most recent activities of the Calendar Revision Committee and he, the SEC, and the Chairs then discussed alternative decision-making procedures to be followed after the Calendar Revision Committee completes its report.

The Chairs of the Senate's Standing Committees then reported on items of business that they wish to present to the Senate at its September 10 meeting. Considerable time was spent discussing possible ways of organizing the upcoming debate and deliberations over the current Proposal for General Education Requirements.

The Senate Executive Committee then met alone and distributed information-gathering tasks to different Senate standing Committees. With regard to the Calendar Revision Committee, the SEC recommended that two members of the Scholastic Standards Committee and one member of the Student Welfare Committee be appointed to the Calendar Revision Committee as soon as possible. The SEC also recommended that the Senate's Scholastic Standards Committee officially receive the final report of the Calendar Revision Committee and, after discussing the contents of the report with members of the Student Welfare Committee, bring the report to the University Senate as a whole.

The Senate Executive Committee then, in the closing minutes of a long meeting, nominated the following persons to University-wide committees:

Michelle Williams to the Alumni Association Awards Committee (a two-year term)
Keith Barker to the University's Honorary Degree Committee

Like the August 24 meeting, the September 7 meeting had three parts. First, the Senate Executive Committee met in closed session with two members of the Administration, Fred Maryanski and

Vicky Triponey. Discussion topics included the need to enhance communication between the Senate and other decision-making bodies on campus; the housing and teaching implications of the recent growth in undergraduate enrollment; and the University's possible budget opportunities and constraints in upcoming years. There also was a discussion of future housing developments, especially for graduate students, and some speculation about the content and consequences of calendar reform. Vicky Triponey informed members of the SEC that all students in the room lottery were offered dormitory rooms.

Then the Senate Executive Committee met with Senator David Palmer to discuss alternative ways to facilitate upcoming discussion and debate over the Proposal for General Education Requirements. The discussion revolved around some written proposals that Senator Gary English, who could not be present, had prepared after extensive consultation with other Senators and with members of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Courses and Curriculum Committee.

After the conversation with Senator Palmer, the Senate Executive Committee met alone to review issues brought up throughout the day. It decided to experiment with monthly memos from the SEC to the University at large. These memos will report on past major Senate actions and remind members of the University community of upcoming Senate decisions. The SEC also recommended that at the upcoming September 10 Senate meeting, Gary English, the Co-Chair of the Curricula and Courses Committee, propose procedures to be followed by the Senate regarding the Proposal for General Education Requirements.

At the close of the September 7 meeting, the Senate Executive Committee nominated the following faculty members to University-wide committees and policy-making bodies:

Stanley Biggs, to complete the term of Maureen Croteau on the Board of Trustees' Financial Affairs Committee (the term will end on June 30, 2002).

Cindy Adams, to complete Stanley Biggs' current term on the Board of Trustees' Committee on Institutional Advancement (that term ends on June 30, 2003).

Respectfully submitted,
Rajeev Bansal
Judith Bridges
Irene Q. Brown
Scott W. Brown
Janine N. Caira
L. Cameron Faustman
Scott E. Kennedy
Bruce M. Stave
C. Ernesto Zirakzadeh, Chair