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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE
October 9, 2006

1. Moderator Murphy officially called the regular meeting of the University Senate of October 9, 2006 to order at 4:05 p.m. in Room 7 of the Bishop Center.

2. Approval of Minutes

Senator Murphy presented the minutes from the regular meeting of September 11, 2006 for review.

The minutes were approved without modification.

3. Report of the President

President Austin reported on his recent meetings with the leadership of the Connecticut Legislature concerning the University's request for 150 new faculty positions and improvements at the Health Center. He reported that no substantive change has been made in the proposal.

President Austin announced that the University's proposed association with Dubai government is progressing cautiously and carefully. UConn has been invited to participate in an 18 month planning exercise. Citing the politically charged atmosphere, President Austin asked the legislative leadership for guidance and received advice to continue. The Board of Trustees has also given a green light. This does not mean there will be a "UConn Dubai" but we will proceed to evaluate the possibilities. Several Deans have expressed interest in moving forward with the project, including those in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the School of Business, the School of Engineering, and Neag School of Education.

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

(See Attachment #8)

5. Verbal Report of the Building and Grounds Committee.

Barry Feldman, Interim Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, presented a verbal report of the recent activities of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. He placed the charge of Building and Grounds Committee in context, explaining that the committee plans and prioritizes the spending of UConn 2000 Funds, including the planning for Phase Three of Twenty First Century UConn, which includes the deferred maintenance portion of the program, some \$237M. It also includes the replacement for the Arjona and Monteith classroom buildings. Vice President Feldman reported the committee's progress on that project. The site has been designated as the site of the former Co-op building, beside the Psychology Building and across from the Babbage Library. This is to be an estimated \$86 million building, comprising some 186,000 square feet. There is considerable planning work yet to be done, including siting the building properly. The placement of the building must consider the needs of delivery and vehicular traffic as well as pedestrian traffic and must allow continued access to the Babbage Library. A further important consideration is the funding Phase three has set aside to expand the Psychology Building. The Buildings and Grounds Committee will shoulder the responsibility for these decisions. He estimated that 14 to 16 months of work will be required for further planning. Construction should be begun by the end of 2008/early 2009. The building will take approximately 24 months to construct. The opening of the new building is planned for mid-fiscal year 2010.

Another large feature of the ongoing UConn 2000 project is the new Student Quadrangle. The committee is preparing specifications now to coincide with the demolition of the Pharmacy Building in early 2007. Early planning with a landscape architect has begun.

The landfill remediation is ongoing and is about one-third finished. Other smaller projects are in progress as well, including the Torrey Life Science Building project and improvements to the entire Math and Science “neighborhood.”

6. Annual Report of the Vice President and Chief Financial Officer on Budget

(See Attachment #9)

A report was presented by Chief Financial Officer Bruce DeTora concerning the University Budget. B. DeTora directed the attention of the Senate to the web page of the Financial Planning and Budget Department that presents in detail the entire budget report delivered to the Board of Trustees. The predicted budget shortfall of \$8.0M for Storrs programs for FY 06 did not fully materialize. Instead our loss was about \$1.0M. Several factors contributed to this result. First, the interest rate changed from 3% to 5%, providing an increase in investment income. Second, the Legislature made good on a promise to reimburse the University for retirement costs incurred due to the recent early retirement program. These increases in income were offset by increases in personal services costs due to increases in faculty and staff numbers. All in all, though, the University ended the fiscal year on a positive budgetary note.

A continuing concern is that there is no undesignated, central reserve fund. While on paper the University of Connecticut appears to carry a sufficient reserve, B. DeTora explained that this reserve includes almost entirely funds whose expenditure has been previously designated. While the fund balances do constitute a kind of reserve, it is not the undesignated, unrestricted sort of reserve that would be desirable as a cushion against unexpected expense. The University’s entire budgetary position is bolstered by the fact that the university does budget conservatively concerning debt service.

FY 07’s budget was submitted in June and updated in September. In terms of State support, the university is within \$500,000 of the requested current services. This is as close as UConn has come to full funding for current services funding in recent years. In addition, the Legislature provided an additional \$4.0M for new initiatives.

This year’s budget will be affected positively by several factors, including declines in energy costs. The enrollments that materialized this fall are close to what was predicted in the budget planning. B. DeTora reported it is too early to tell with precision where we are vis-à-vis the FY 07 budget, but there is no reason at this point to believe there will be difficulty.

B. Detora presented a summary of budget planning for FY 08. The current services budget request was presented, but a caution was delivered that the figures do not represent pending collective bargaining agreements as major collective bargaining negotiations are currently in progress. The university is developing the “above current services” request. One of these requests is for additional faculty to be supported by the state. UConn will request an increase in faculty of 175 positions to address issues of student/faculty ratio. There is also a request for 71 new support staff to complement the new faculty positions. Senator Schaefer inquired about the continuation of the faculty in residence program. The three-year plan is ending and he asked about the future of the program. B. DeTora stated those funds are allocated to the Provost where the decision concerning the program will ultimately will be made. Vice Provost Makowsky stated that the Provost’s Office plans to continue the program. President Austin affirmed the efficacy of the program, reinforcing the idea that tenure track and adjunct lines are the best route for the Storrs campus, but that the in residence title continues to be vital at the Health Center.

7. The report of the Scholastic Standards Committee

(See Attachment #10)

Senator Moiseff presented a motion from the Scholastic Standards Committee concerning class attendance. The motion proposes to revise the By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the University of Connecticut, II.E.11. to read as follows:

E. Scholastic Standing

11. Class Attendance

Students are expected to attend classes for which they are registered. Instructors may establish attendance criteria and may consider these criteria when determining a student's grade. Instructors are expected to inform students of the criteria and how they will be factored into students' grades. The Instructor of record is given 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 urged to accommodate student requests to complete work missed by absence due to reasonable extenuating circumstances, or extra curricular/co-curricular activities performed in the interest of the University and/or supporting the scholarly development of the student, when such accommodations would not dilute or preclude the requirements or learning outcomes for the course. Examples of such activities include participation in scholarly presentations, performing arts, and intercollegiate athletics, when the participation is at the request of, or coordinated by, a University official. Students involved in such activities should inform their instructor in writing prior to the anticipated absence and take the initiative to make up missed work in a timely fashion.

If a student does not attend any of the classes or laboratories of a course during the first two weeks 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, 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- attendee, the student must drop the course by the regular procedure or run the risk of being assigned a failing grade (See II.B.10, paragraph 7).

Senator Reis presented an amendment to modify the motion so that it read, in part:

“Instructors are urged to accommodate student requests to complete work missed by absence due to *illness or family emergency or other reasonable extenuating circumstances*, or extra curricular/co-curricular activities. . . .”

A voice vote was followed by a call for “division” and a vote was tallied by raised hand.

The amendment was defeated by a vote of 24 yea to 34 nay.

The discussion of the main motion continued.

Senator Gine-Masdeu moved that the sentence beginning “Examples of such activities. . .” be struck, seconded by Senator Schultz.

During discussion a clarification was offered: the addition of a new phrase so that the motion read, in part:

“Students involved in such extracurricular or co-curricular activities should inform their instructor in writing prior to the anticipated absence. . . .”

Moderator Murphy put the Gine-Masdeu amendment to a vote.

The Gine-Masdeu amendment failed.

Moderator Murphy put the clarified amendment to a vote.

The clarified motion to amend failed.

Senator Darre moved that the motion be referred back to committee for reconsideration and rewording in a more concise fashion. Several Senators requested that this motion be reviewed by both Scholastic Standards and Student Welfare.

The motion to return to committee carried.

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

(See Attachment #11)

- I. Special Topics Course topic approval - the Committee recommends approval of the following course topic for spring 2007:

A. OPIM 195 Special Topics

Topic: Management Information Systems in Business: A Hands-on Approach

The motion carried.

- II. Courses Open to sophomores

For the information of the Senate, the Committee reports the following courses have been approved as open to sophomores:

A. HIST/ LAMS 233W History of Migration in Las Americas - open to sophomores

For the information of the Senate, the Committee reports the following course has been dropped as open to sophomores

A. MATH 214 Introduction to Discrete Systems - drop open to sophomores so that course may be dropped.

- III. Course with C to be dropped

The Committee recommends that the following C designated course be dropped:

A. NRME 251C Computer Utilizations in AGNR - drop C so that course may be dropped. Course has not been offered for a number of years.

The motion carried.

- IV. New Course Numbering

The Committee has reviewed the renumbering of Animal Science courses for the new system. These courses will now be 2xxx and were 200s level but not open to sophomores in the current system. These courses are recommended for approval:

A. ANSC 254 Principles of Poultry Science approve as ANSC 2271.

- B. ANSC 291 Animal Science Field Excursions** approve as **ANSC 2690**
C. ANSC 299 Independent Study approve as **ANSC 2699**

The motion carried.

- V. New General Education courses forwarded from GEOC:
 The Curricula & Courses Committee moves that the University Senate approve the following courses for the General Education Curriculum:
- A. The Committee recommends approval of the following courses for inclusion in Content Area 1 (Arts and Humanities):

HIST/ LAMS 233W History of Migration in Las Americas
HIST278/ PRLS 220 History of Latino/as in the United States

The motion carried.

- B. GEOC recommended approval of the following courses for inclusion in the W skill code Senate C&C Committee approves these courses and reports them for the information of the Senate:

ACCT 296W Senior Thesis in Accounting
 ANTH 2ZZW Seminar in Archaeology
 ANTH 292W Ecological Anthropology Seminar
 COMM 2XXW Computer Mediated Communication
 GS 295W Integrating General Studies
 HIST 258W Intellectual and Social History of Europe in the Nineteenth Century
 HIST 259W Intellectual and Social History of Europe in the Twentieth Century
 POLS 212W Globalization and Political Change

- VI. Courses to be dropped from General Education
 GEOC recommended that the following English courses be dropped as general education courses. Senate C&C Committee recommends that the following courses be dropped from the list of approved courses. The courses will continue to be offered by the English department. They will be renumbered 3xxx or higher and will not be appropriate as general education courses.

Content Area 1
 ENGL 200 Children's Literature
 ENGL 212 The Modern Novel

The motion carried.

- VII. Report of Cross-listed Skill Courses that have not appeared in Senate Minutes
 For the information of the Senate, these cross-listed courses are given:
 All approvals have been made by the appropriate Departments and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Content Area 1
AFAM/FINA 183 Afrocentric Perspectives in the Arts

Content Area 4

AASI/HRTS/SOCI 221 Sociological Perspectives on Asian American Women

AFAM/FINA 183 Afrocentric Perspectives in the Arts

W Competency

HIST/URBN 241W The History of Urban America

9. Senator Fox presented the Report of the Nominating Committee.

(See Attachment #12)

- A. The Committee moves the following staff deletion to the named Standing Committee:

Monica Dimauro from the Scholastic Standards Committee

The motion carried.

- B. The Committee moves the following faculty/staff additions to the Growth & Development Committee:

Laurie Best as representative of the Curricula & Courses Committee

Tracie Borden as representative of the University Budget Committee

Karen Bresciano as representative of the Student Welfare Committee

Faquir Jain as representative of the UConn Foundation Board of Directors

- C. The Committee moves to add Lisa Sanchez to the General Education Oversight Committee for a two-year term.

Motions B and C carried.

- D. The Committee moves the following undergraduate student additions to the named Standing Committees:

Robert Casapulla to the Scholastic Standards Committee

Vanessa DiPilato to the Faculty Standards Committee

Brittany Kwalek to the General Education Oversight Committee

Steven Mlenak to the Curricula & Courses Committee

Joshua Scheid to the University Budget Committee

Lauren Smith to the Curricula & Courses Committee & the Scholastic Standards Committee

The motion carried.

10. Unfinished business – none

11. New business – Senator DeWolf announced that Senator Andrew Marone had been elected by the students to serve on the Senate Executive Committee.

12. There was a motion to adjourn.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Miller
Senate Secretary

The following members and alternates were absent from the October 9, 2006 meeting:

Aronson, Lorraine
Bansal, Rajeev
Becker, Loftus
Bergman, Theodore
Boyer, Mark
Bull, Nancy
Engel, Gerald
English, Gary
Evanovich, Dolan
Faustman, Cameron

Franklin, Brinley
Gramling, Lawrence
Guillard, Karl
Hart, Ian
Hightower, Lawrence
Holsinger, Kent
Holzworth, R.J.
Kerntke, Michael
Marsden, James
Nicholls, Peter

Olson, Sherri
Ravishanker, Nalini
Saddlemire, John
Simmons, Robin
Stwalley, William
Taylor, Ronald
VanHeest, Jaci
Vinsonhaler, Charles
von Munkwitz-Smith, Jeffrey
Zirakzadeh, C. Ernesto