

September 2007

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE
September 10, 2007

1. Provost Nicholls officially called the regular meeting of the University Senate of September 10, 2007 to order at 4:03 PM in Room 7 of the Bishop Center.
2. Election of the Moderator - Senator DeWolf nominated Susan Spiggle as Moderator and Gary English as an Alternate Moderator for the 2007/2008 academic year. The motion was seconded by Senator Caira. The Senate approved by voice vote without dissent.
3. In the absence of Moderator Spiggle, Senator English took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.
4. Election of the Secretary - Senator Hiskes nominated Robert Miller as Secretary of the Senate for 2007/2008 academic year. The motion was seconded by Senator Bansal. The Senate approved by voice vote without dissent. Secretary Miller was presented to the Senate.
5. Moderator English requested Senators introduce themselves and state their department affiliation.
6. Approval of the Minutes

Moderator English presented the minutes from the regular meeting of April 30, 2007 for review.

The minutes were approved without modification.

7. Report of the Provost

Provost Nicholls welcomed Senators back for another academic year. Provost Nicholls expressed his thanks to the members of the Senate who were involved in the Presidential search and affirmed his enthusiasm for the appointment of President Hogan.

Provost Nicholls announced the appointment of four new deans and their confirmation by the Board of Trustees of the University. They are as follows: Jeremy Paul, Dean of the School of Law; Mun Choi, Dean of the School of Engineering; Christopher Early, Dean of the School of Engineering; and Anne Bavier, Dean of the School of Nursing. Provost Nicholls announced that during the academic year four additional Dean's searches will be conducted for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, School of Social Work, and the Vice Provost for Research & Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School. An executive search firm may be engaged to assist in these searches.

Provost Nicholls reported efforts at refinement of the University Academic Plan are continuing and encouraged participation by the various constituencies of the University.

Provost Nicholls announced approximately 40 additional new faculty members were hired for the Fall of 2007. These positions comprise a mixture of both tenure/tenure track, and assistant professors in residence. Some of the funding for these positions was the result of the Legislative action in the founding a new Center for Entrepreneurship at the University. Additional positions were made possible through the careful husbandry of resources by the schools and colleges. In addition, the University has received \$1M in additional resources from the Connecticut Legislature to add even more lines for next year. Reallocations within the University have resulted in the identification of a further \$2M for the addition of tenure/tenure track positions and will be spread across the university. The Deans have been asked to submit requests for these positions. These positions will be used to assist in accomplishing the goals of the academic plan.

Provost Nicholls announced the University has identified about \$2M for one time expenses in an equipment competition for large scale equip purchases which will be used by multiple faculty members. A general

announcement concerning this competition will follow shortly. The Provost stated separate equipment money has been distributed to the Deans for equipment purchases such as the replacement of lab computers.

Provost Nicholls reported that the UConn/Dubai Project has been canceled due to the advice of the Attorney General until the Legislature passes legislation authorizing such ventures. Provost Nicholls stated that the University will continue to encourage this legislation and so that it can eventually pursue other programs with foreign nations.

Senator Tuchman rose to speak about water demands and the problems with intoxicated pedestrians. This was prompted by the university's plan to approve water and sewer services for new privately owned housing developments to be located just off campus. Senator Tuchman spoke of the difficulties these developments might cause and asked that the university and town declare a moratorium on such approvals until such time as two problems are addressed: the University's water system and its capacity; and the problem of intoxicated students and their safety. The Provost outlined the present university position on water conservation and mentioned progress in student safety especially on Hunting Lodge Road and North Eagleville Road. He stated a report would be presented later in the Senate meeting concerning water issues.

Senator Mannheim inquired if the new faculty amounted to 40 new lines or just the replacement of retired faculty. The Provost replied that it is head count and is in part based on the retirement of senior faculty who were replaced by more than one junior faculty members.

A follow up question from Senator Mannheim concerned the make up of the new faculty. He asked if there had been a radical revision of the strategic plan with new emphasis on teaching rather than research. The Provost flatly stated that is not the case. He reiterated that the additional 30 positions for next year is another step towards the needed 175 positions the University has previously documented.

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

(Attachment #1)

9. Senator Hiskes presented the Report of the Senate Nominating Committee.

(Attachment #2)

- a. The Committee moves the following faculty/staff deletions to the named standing committees:

Casey Cobb from the Student Welfare Committee
 Susan Eisenhandler from the Student Welfare Committee
 Ian Hart from the University Budget Committee
 Robin Simmons from the Student Welfare Committee

- b. The Committee moves the following faculty/staff additions to the named standing committees:

Keith Barker to the Curricula & Courses Committee, ex-officio, non-voting member
 Laurie Best to the Growth & Development Committee as representative of the
 Curricula & Courses Committee
 Tracie Borden to the Growth & Development Committee as representative of the
 University Budget Committee
 Karen Bresciano to the Growth & Development Committee as representative of the
 Student Welfare Committee
 Bruce DeTora to the University Budget Committee, ex-officio, non-voting member
 Dolan Evanovich to the Enrollment Committee, ex-officio, non-voting member
 Gerald Gianutsos to the Growth & Development Committee as representative of the
 Scholastic Standards Committee
 Lynne Goodstein to the Scholastic Standards Committee, ex-officio, non-voting member

Faquir Jain to the Growth & Development Committee as representative of the
 UConn Foundation Board of Directors
 Gaye Tuchman to the Growth & Development Committee as representative of the
 Faculty Standards Committee
 Dana Wilder to the Growth & Development Committee, ex-officio, non-voting member
 Lee Williams to the Student Welfare Committee, ex-officio, non-voting member

- c. The Committee moves to add Shannon O'Reilly, undergraduate student, to the Student Welfare Committee.

a, b, & c were presented as one motion.

The motion carried.

- d. For the information of the Senate, the Undergraduate Student Government has named Robert Casapulla, Jana Lanza, and Robert Ryan McHardy to membership on the Senate for a one-year term.
- e. For the information of the Senate, the Graduate Student Senate has named Anastasios Maurudis and R. Brooke Morrill, Jr. to membership on the Senate for a one-year term.

- 10. Senator Makowsky, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, presented a report on Undergraduate Education and Instruction and a brief update on the Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Task Force.

(Attachment #3 & #4)

Senator Caira questioned the new paperwork required for field trips and asked if these were only legal documents or if they had an additional purpose. She also inquired as to what to do with all the forms once they are filled out. Dr. Makowsky replied that these are primarily legal documents and that no central repository for them presently exists. She will make inquiries concerning their disposition in the future. For the present it is assumed, she said, that faculty will retain them in their files.

Senator Mannheim asked how many staff would be needed to implement the Vice Provost's plans as outlined in her report. She replied that about 12 staff would suffice but the real need is in faculty lines.

Senator Schultz inquired about growth in the Honors Program. He asked about the future of the program and support for undergraduate research. Senator Makowsky replied that the Honors Program is under review to see if it should be any bigger; but the present feeling is that it is now about the right size. In terms of undergraduate research there is a funding need, especially for the Summer Undergraduate Research Fund ("SURF) program. Some additional money has been found but not nearly enough to fund all the worthy proposals. Senator Makowsky pointed out the many voluntary sources she presently taps to fund the program and reiterated the need for a permanent allocation.

- 11. Barry Feldman, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer presented a report concerning the development of campus emergency procedures and communications. After the Virginia Tech tragedy last year, a committee was formed to look at the problem of our procedures and protocols for communication with students, faculty, and staff in the case of an emergency. A new set of procedures was developed over the summer the equipment necessary to implement those procedures was specified and installed. That equipment is now operational. The protocol is that emergency incidents are to be reported through the Emergency Dispatch Center. Once an incident is reported, the Chief of Police makes the decision about whether or not the situation is of significant enough magnitude to warrant an emergency response. If that is a positive decision, it is at this point the new public address siren system would be activated and a tone and spoken message would be provided both over outdoor campus loudspeakers and within each building. The announcement would ask community members to check their cell phones and email. Our new system "R-911" ('Reverse 911) sends text messages to cell phones and refers people to a dedicated web site for further information. Discussions are continuing concerning the kinds of

emergencies eligible for this treatment. There is still work to be done but great progress has been made since last April. Notification is voluntary, but more than 14,000 people have so far signed up for notification through the system.

Senator Feldman was asked if there is anything being done to notify faculty of proper procedures for activating the system in the event of emergency. Senator Feldman responded the proper response for faculty is to call 911—that is the number for the Emergency Dispatch Center.

Senator Freake encouraged that weather alerts be added. Debate ensued. There was feeling that too many messages might encourage people not to participate.

Senator Sanner inquired about the appropriateness of 911 service, concerned that those calls might go elsewhere if they were made from a cellular phone. Police Chief Hudd responded that most of the cell phone systems now relay directly to UConn for cell calls placed from campus. Others (mainly on fringe areas of the campus) may go to the Tolland Emergency Dispatch Center, but these would then immediately be re-routed to the UConn system. The University has “enhanced” 911 service which can identify the location of anyone dialing the number even if no one speaks. The present policy of sending help will be sent to that phone will continue to be followed.

Chief Hudd reported that additional training has been given to university police officers concerning response to active shooters. New protocols and procedures were put in place in consideration of last spring’s shootings at Virginia Tech. He also announced that improvements have been made to the Celeron Path in terms of lighting and patrols.

Chief Hudd discussed the reluctance to install cameras with active surveillance, citing privacy concerns. He did, however, point out that there are already a number of cameras around campus, in convenience stores and so on, and that these have been consulted by UConn police in the past. He announced in addition to surveillance the installed cameras may soon be made to record activities within major intersections and large parking lots.

Chief Hudd reported a strategic study has been undertaken to determine our levels of service, equipment, and staffing. Like all American emergency services, the University relies on mutual assistance from emergency services in surrounding towns. A new assessment needs to be made, however, concerning how ready the community may be to help. There is some thought that the readiness of surrounding agencies may have changed.

12. Margaret Lamb, Director of Individualized and Interdisciplinary Studies Program presented a report on INTD courses.

(Attachment #5)

Senator Mannheim asked if every course with an INTD label is recognized by every college and school against the 120 credits required for graduation stating that this situation is presently cloudy. Director Lamb responded students have not been advised that these INTD credits may not count and stated that clarifications are being undertaken.

13. Senator Feldman introduced Tom Callahan, Associate Vice President for Administration & Operation Services, to address water issues and the approval of new off campus housing. T. Callahan reported the university now “lotteries” off campus 1000 students per year. It is very lucrative in Mansfield to buy single family homes and rent them to students. Some long-term neighborhoods are being destabilized by this as investors purchase single-family homes with the intention of renting them to groups of students. The town and university have adopted a strategy that will encourage landlords to deliver services that are due to students. Mansfield has enacted new inspection and code requirements for housing.

T. Callahan also reported the University has invested heavily in the Willimantic well field to relieve potential stress on the Fenton River. Citing water problems of the past, Callahan pointed out that water has not been pumped from the Fenton River well field since July 26, 2007. The University has hired a professional manager

for its water system. The University and Town of Mansfield have begun examine more carefully requests for connections to water and sewer system. Water usage is considerably down over previous years, demonstrating the efficacy of these changes. The following decisions have been made in conjunction with Mansfield: The privately owned Knollwood Apartments complex has been approved to connect to our sewer system; Carriage House management applied for similar connection and was denied; Celeron Square management has asked to extend its lease and would like the University to provide water and sewer and clean up the old dump on its leasehold. Negotiations concerning this issue continue. The Mansfield Town Center is still in development. The proposed Keystone Development ("Ponde Place") on Hunting Lodge Road (some 600 beds) is under continuing discussion. The present position is that if development is consistent with the Town's planning, can be serviced properly by the University, and is approved by the Town Zoning and Planning Commission, then the university will proceed with that project. The application from Ponde Place has presently been withdrawn until all other factors are in place, but it is anticipated that a new application will soon follow.

Senator Tuchman asked why would the University and town give the appearance of trying to circumvent it's own rules for this project? Mr. Callahan reiterated that the University and town are working together, examining the project and its potential impact and that a final decision has not yet been reached.

14. Senators Hedley Freake and Katharina von Hammerstein presented the Annual Report of the General Education Oversight Committee.

(Attachment #6)

15. New Business – None

16. There was a motion to adjourn.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert F. Miller
Secretary of the University Senate

The following members and alternates were absent from the September 10, 2007 meeting:

Armstrong, Lawrence
Becker, Loftus
Boyer, Mark
Deibler, Cora Lynn
Facchinetti, Neil
Givens, Jean
Holzworth, R.J.
Jain, Faquir
Kelly, Kristin

Korbel, Donna
Kurland, Michael
Lillo-Martin, Diane
Lipsky, Sue
Marsden, James
Morrill, R. Brooke
Olson, Sherri
Reis, Sally
Schaefer, Carl

Schwab, Richard
Silander, John
Spiggle, Susan
Thorpe, Judith
Treadwell, Kimberli
von Munkwitz-Smith, Jeffrey
Wagner, David
Woods, David