

2-1-2010

## Minutes February 1, 2010

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**MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE**  
**February 1, 2010**

1. The regular meeting of the University Senate for December 14, 2009 was called to order by Moderator Spiggle at 4:02 PM.
2. Approval of the Minutes

Moderator Spiggle presented the minutes from the regular meeting of December 14, 2009 for review.

**The minutes were approved as written.**

3. Report of the President

Provost Peter Nichols presented the Report of the President. Provost Nichols began by sharing information concerning the University's budget. The State of Connecticut is attempting to remedy its approximately \$3 billion dollar gap between current income and current budget commitments. For fiscal years 2010 and 2011 several "one time" measures are available which have lowered the State deficit to \$500 million dollars, but these are, of course, temporary. In the longer term, the situation is much more grave. For the remainder of 2010 and for 2011 the University's base budget is protected by agreements made under the Federal Economic Recovery Act, so the University will experience a flat budget allocation during this period. This protection does not, however, extend to those funds classified as "reserves." The University has millions of dollars in various funds, much of which is labeled as a "reserve," in spite of the fact that those funds might have already been allocated to known future expenses. For example, a "reserve" fund might have been promised as matching fund for a grant, or might be startup money that was promised to a new faculty member but not yet expended. Other reserve funds accumulate from such sources as room and board fees to be used for future maintenance or to cover emergency repairs or replacement. The State has swept \$8 million of these "reserve" funds and asked that they be returned to the State's General Fund. This is permissible by law because this money technically "belongs" to the State. If the State continues to sweep these reserves, the Provost stated that the University would suffer great hardship.

The financial models and projections for the 2012 and subsequent fiscal years show that even with normal increases in tuition of about 6.6% for each of the next two years the University will experience a \$20 million dollar or 6% deficit. The deficit could be eliminated if tuition were raised 6.6% next year and 12.6% the following, but it is unlikely that this would be possible given the politics of the situation. The State University system has already set the stage by approving a 6% increase and it would thus be difficult to argue that UConn needs a greater increase.

Future predictions are further made complicated by the money the University saved from the retirement incentive program ("RIP.") The University has retained the RIP money

but it is unclear if these savings will be continue to be available to us or if the State will sweep these savings as well. The budget projection models just described that demonstrate a \$20 million deficit for FY 2012 include the savings from RIP. They do not account for a potential sweep of the funds. In short, if the State takes back the RIP money, the situation could be even worse and we will be unable to meet even modest faculty and staff hiring goals.

While any budget projection includes a variety of economic assumptions and thus accuracy is never perfect, it is clear that we will need to take effective measures to close our potential budget gap for 2012.

Although it is of little comfort, other states are fairing even less well than Connecticut. Provost Nichols reminded the Senate of the extremely bad situation among the California universities and pointed out that even such prestigious institutions as the University of Illinois is experiencing great difficulties, including consideration of closing graduate programs and so on. Some institutions are even considering suspending the admission of new undergraduate students completely for a year, skipping an entire freshman class.

Provost Nichols assured the Senate that the University of Connecticut is well managed and we will be all right for this year and the next but we must put plans in place to take care of 2012.

Senator Mannheim inquired about means of protecting reserves by preventing it from becoming State money in the first place—perhaps putting fees from grants and so on in a non-state entity such as the UConn Foundation. He also commented on the difficulty of raising tuition in the face of a 6% tuition increase by other State universities in Connecticut. Senator Mannheim asked if we could get all the Universities together and plan to raise tuition together. The Provost noted that conversations have started regarding both suggestions.

Senator Bontly noted the great under-utilization of our resources in the summer and suggested that we plan a way to increase our summer school revenues. The Provost commented that we do have spare capacity in the summer and pointed out that there is demand. He absolutely agrees that this should happen and is forming a group right now to explore this. The present summer school clears an approximate \$1 million profit and the Provost believes there is room to expand that to \$2 million.

Provost Nichols next addressed concerns that have been raised about programs requiring personnel to travel abroad. Specifically, the safety and security of students and faculty and for indemnification of the University from potential suit in case something goes wrong during a foreign trip. He pointed out that the University has carefully-worked-out and sensible guidelines concerning our Study Abroad Program to help ensure the safety of faculty and students traveling abroad. These policies do not, however, extend to other kinds of travel outside the purview of Study Abroad. Hence, the Provost announced that he is proposing general policies concerning all travel by undergraduates overseas as follows. First, any overseas undergraduate experience that is credit bearing must be done

through the Study Abroad office and will be subject to their policies and practices. Second, if the experience is not for credit, then he would like to require that students obtain standardized travel insurance through a group policy maintained by the University. This insurance would cover necessary medical evacuation or the return of remains. He will also require that faculty go through a training module that is presently in place for study abroad programs before they take students abroad. These policies should help indemnify faculty and the university in case of an adverse outcome. These insurance policies are reasonable in cost—about \$3.00 per day. Provost Nichols feels we need to move quickly on this. Senator Bushmich inquired if the new travel policy would be restricted only to UConn-sponsored programs. The Provost commented that it would also extend to programs sponsored by outside agencies in which students participate through the Study Abroad office.

Finally, Provost Nicholls addressed the University's consulting policy. He explained that we have had a policy since September 2007 which was put in place in order to exempt University faculty from State rules that prohibit all outside employment. It is a requirement of that agreement with the State that the policy be audited periodically and this has been done. There are changes that must be made in response to the audit. Most of these changes are beneficial to faculty. The original intention was to present these changes to the Board of Trustees at its January meeting, but that meeting was cancelled due to bad weather. The Provost had also intended to have the policy changes reviewed by appropriate Senate committees. Nonetheless the new policy changes were posted to the Provost's web site prematurely. They have now been taken down until they are reviewed by the Senate and the Board of Trustees.

Senator Lowe asked if the Board of Trustees would be asked to vote on the new policy or would it be merely presented to them as a matter of information. The Provost said that he would prefer that the Board of Trustees be asked to approve these.

Senator Mannheim inquired about the future of the Graduate School. The Provost responded that there was a committee that studied the potential reorganization of the Graduate School, and its report is posted on his web site. The Provost's office is considering the establishment of a new high-level position in charge of graduate education. The Provost would like to move in that direction as the proposal is well-supported by most of the university.

4. Senator Clausen presented the Report of the Senate Executive Committee.  
(Attachment #27)
5. Senator Recchio presented the Report of the Scholastic Standards Committee  
(Attachment #28)

Senator Recchio presented a motion to change the By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the University Senate, section II.E.15 Scholastic Probation and Dismissal as presented to the Senate at its meeting of December 14, 2009.

**Motion:**II.E.15: *Scholastic Probation and Dismissal*

Scholastic probation and dismissal from the University for scholastic reasons shall be administered by the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Instruction, at the recommendation of the schools and colleges or regional campuses, and in accordance with the regulations that follow:

Scholastic probation is an identification of students whose scholastic performance is below University standards. The student and the student's counselor are informed that a marked academic improvement in future semesters is necessary to obtain the minimum scholastic standards.

Students are on scholastic probation for the next semester in which they are enrolled if their academic performance is such that they are included in any of the following conditions:

- a. Students who have earned 0-11 credits (considered to be 1st semester standing) and who have earned less than a 1.8 semester grade point average.
- b. Students who have earned 12-23 credits (considered to be 2nd semester standing) and who have earned less than a 1.8 semester grade point average.
- c. Students who have earned 24 credits or more (considered to be 3rd semester or higher) and who have earned less than a 2.0 semester grade point average or cumulative grade point average.
- d. Any student placed on academic probation because of a cumulative grade point average less than 2.0 shall be removed from probation when the cumulative grade point average reaches 2.0 or above.

The end of the semester is defined as the day when semester grades must be submitted to the Registrar. This must occur no later than seventy-two hours after the final examination period ends.

Incomplete and Absent grades (I, X, and N) do not represent earned credit. A student placed on probation with unresolved grades will be relieved of probation status if satisfactory completion of the work places his or her academic performance above the probation standards.

Warning letters will be sent to students in good standing who have completed their first or second semester with less than a 2.0 semester grade point average.

A student who fails to meet these minimum scholastic standards for two consecutively registered semesters is subject to dismissal. However, no student with at least a 2.3 semester grade point average after completing all courses for

which he or she is registered at the end of a semester shall be subject to dismissal; the student will be continued on scholastic probation if such status is warranted.

Students who are subject to dismissal but who, for extraordinary reasons, are permitted to continue may be subjected by the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Instruction to other conditions for their continuance.

When a student is dismissed from the University for scholastic reasons only, any certificate or transcript issued must contain the statement "Dismissed for scholastic deficiency but otherwise entitled to honorable dismissal."

Dismissal involves non-residence on the University campus and loss of status as a candidate for a degree effective immediately upon dismissal.

A student who has been dismissed from the University for academic reasons may not register for courses at the University as a non-degree student without the approval of the ~~Dean of Extended and Continuing Education~~ **Director of the Center for Continuing Studies**, ~~who will inform the dean of the student's previous school or college about the decision made.~~

Students who have been dismissed may, during a later semester, request an evaluation for readmission to the University. ~~by applying to the dean of the school or college into which entry is sought.~~ **Students wishing to apply for readmission to the Storrs campus apply to the Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee. Students wishing to apply for readmission to a regional campus apply to the regional campus Director for Student Services.** Readmission will be considered favorably only when the evaluation indicates a strong probability for academic success. In their first regular semester after readmission, dismissed students will be on scholastic probation and may be subjected by the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Instruction to other conditions for their continuance. Students who have left the University for a reason other than academic dismissal are readmitted under the same scholastic standing status as achieved at the time of their separation from the University.

**The motion carried.**

6. Senator Recchio presented the Annual Report of the Scholastic Standards Committee.  
(Attachment #29)
7. Senator Schultz presented the Report of the Curricula & Courses Committee.  
(Attachment #30)
  - a. The Curricula and Courses Committee recommends approval to ADD the following 1000 or 2000 level courses:

**OPIM 2001 MIS in Business: A Hands-On Introduction**

Either semester. Three credits. Cannot be used toward fulfilling MIS major requirements. Not open to Business majors who have taken or are currently enrolled in OPIM 3103. A laptop (Windows or Mac operating system) that can connect to the Internet is required.

A hands-on introduction to latest information technology concepts and tools as applicable to business, such as spreadsheets for business analysis, business programming and database management, technology project management, electronic commerce, emerging technologies for online marketing, emerging social media, information security and privacy, and intellectual property. Executives from industry will be guest speakers.

**NRE 2215 Water Resources Assessment Development and Management**

(Formerly offered as NRME 3218.) Second semester. Three credits. Three class periods. Field trips required. Recommended preparation: NRE 1000 and GSCI 1050. Open to sophomores or higher. Robbins

Introduction to surface and ground water resource assessment, development and management. Integration of scientific, legal, environmental and human factors that enter into developing and maintaining sustainable water resources. Examines current and future plight of water shortages and water quality issues here and abroad.

- b. The Curricula and Courses Committee recommends approval to REVISE the following 1000 or 2000 level courses:

**MGMT 1801 Contemporary Issues in the World of Management (variable topics)**  
Current Catalog Copy

1801. Contemporary Issues in the World of Management. Either semester. One credit. May be repeated in different sections in combination with BADM 1801 for up to three credits. Open to freshmen and sophomores: others worth consent of instructor. May not be used to meet junior-Senior level major requirements in the School of Business.

Revised Catalog Copy

1801. Contemporary Issues in the World of Management. Either semester. Hours and credits by arrangement. May be repeated in different sections in combination with BADM 1801 for up to three credits. Open to freshmen and sophomores: others with consent of instructor. May not be used to meet junior-senior level major requirements in the School of Business.

Topics reflecting the complexities, challenges and excitement of today's business world.

**BADM 1801 Contemporary Issues in the World of Business (variable topics)**

Current Catalog Copy

1801. Contemporary Issues in the World of Business

Either semester. One credit. May be repeated in different sections for up to three credits. Open to freshmen and sophomores: others with consent of instructor. May not be used to meet junior-Senior level major requirements in the School of Business.

The world of business has changed No longer can we refer to the cliché "business as usual". Today's business world is a complex, challenging, and exciting place. Each section of this course will capture some aspect of that challenge and excitement. Students will be exposed to undercurrents that challenge and perplex today's managers and executives around the globe. Students should consult the scheduling booklet for specific topics offered.

#### Revised Catalog Copy

1801. Contemporary Issues in the World of Management. Either semester. Hours and credits by arrangement. May be repeated in different sections in combination with BADM 1801 for up to three credits. Open to freshmen and sophomores: others with consent of instructor. May not be used to meet junior-senior level major requirements in the School of Business. Topics reflecting the complexities, challenges and excitement of today's business world.

The slate of courses were presented as one motion.

#### **The motion carried.**

8. Senator Schultz presented a Report from the Curricula & Courses Committee which contained a proposal to change the By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the University Senate and the General Education Guidelines regarding optional multi-content area general education courses.

(Attachment #31)

These by-law changes are presented to the Senate for informational purposes at this time. The motion will be considered for a vote of the Senate at its meeting of March 1, 2010. Senator von Hammerstein presented a PowerPoint presentation to provide the background and further explanations of the proposed changes. She then entertained questions from the Senate floor.

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

(Attachment #32)

- a. We move to remove the following faculty and staff members from the named committees:
  - Letitia Naigles from the General Education Oversight Committee
  - Isaac Ortega from the General Education Oversight Committee
  - Catherine Ross from the Diversity Committee
- b. We move to appoint Peter Kaminsky to the General Education Oversight Committee with a term beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2012.



- c. We move to remove Janna Mahfoud, Graduate Student, from the Diversity Committee.
- d. We move to appoint Kashema Jennings, Graduate Student, to the Diversity Committee.

**The four motions, presented together, carried.**

10. Senator Hoskin presented the Annual Report of the Enrollment Committee.  
(attachment #33)

11. There was a motion to adjourn.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert F. Miller  
Professor of Music  
Secretary of the University Senate

The following members and alternates were absent from the February 1, 2010 meeting:

Accorsi, Michael	Franklin, Brinley	Rubio, Maria
Anderson, Amy	Gray, Richard	Segerson, Kathleen
Armando, Kayla	Hogan, Michael	Sewall, Murphy
Bansal, Rajeev	Hussain, Shaznene	Skoog, Annelie
Basu, Ashis	Jain, Faquir	Stewart, Neal
Baxter, Donald	Jordan, Eric	Thompson, YooMi
Bouchard, Norma	Kazerounian, Kazem	Thorson, Robert
Bramble, Pamela	Laurencin, Cato	Trumbo, Stephen
Brown, Scott	Letendre, Joan	von Munkwitz-Smith,
Callahan, Thomas	LoTurco, Joseph	Jeffrey
Choi, Mun	Makowsky, Veronica	Wagner, David
D'Alleva, Anne	Martel, David	Ward, J. Evan
Deibler, Cora Lynn	McCoy, Patricia	Woodward, Walter
Feldman, Barry	Neumann, Michael	
Frank, Harry	Roe, Shirley	