

**Faculty Senate Minutes**  
**March 25, 2002**

**Senate Members Present:** Balaam, Bartanen, Cooney, Droge, Hanson, Hummel-Berry, Jackson, Kline, McGruder, Ostrom (Chair), Porter, Shelton, Tomlin, Tullis, Wilson

**Visitors Present:** W. Barry, S. Barnett, N. Bristow, M. Rocchi, D. Smith, P. Wimberger

Ostrom called the meeting to order at 4:05. He introduced Ben Shelton, now ASUPS president and new Senate member. Shelton offered to be of service to the Senate in any way he could. He affirmed that he was still learning about his duties, and identified promotion of the excellence of the University to outside audiences as a high priority for his term of office.

Minutes of 3/11 were distributed to Senate members who had not received them electronically. Editorial changes were suggested and accepted by Balaam, who had served as Secretary for the meeting.

Hummel-Berry M/S that the minutes be approved as corrected. Motion passed unanimously on a division vote.

Ostrom called for Special Orders. Porter indicated that class schedule conflicts had prevented her from arriving at previous Senate meetings for this portion of the agenda. She said she was honored to be an elected Senator and promised to serve with dedication.

Jackson announced that nominations for Faculty Senate and the Advancement Committee would be circulated by the end of the week.

Ostrom announced that he has, as requested by the Senate, sent an inquiry to John Hickey, Director of Business Services, regarding the possibility of establishing 15-minute loading/unloading spaces near Wyatt hall for faculty carrying materials to offices or classrooms. He had received no response as yet.

Moving to Old Business, Ostrom opened the floor for discussion of his proposal (see attachment) to establish a Faculty Senate Task Force to Examine the Study-Abroad Program. Hanson M/S to adopt the proposal.

Deliberation focussed on the issue of the composition of the Task Force. Ostrom asked whether an administrative member should be included. Cooney suggested that it would be difficult for a faculty group without administrative representation to ensure the necessary cooperation from personnel in offices that had information directly related to the committee's work, as they probably would consider such requests lower in priority to other kinds of work.

Other issues raised were: would an administrative officer have unique knowledge or experiences or insights which would warrant membership, what would be the relationship between the presence of an administrative member and the scope of the task force's work, what would be the impact of a faculty-only group on faculty morale, what size was optimal, and whether the Senate had any jurisdiction over appointment of administrative representatives to the Task Force.

After spirited but orderly debate, Hanson M/S to amend the proposal so that that Associate Dean Barry could be invited to participate. Cooney said he would support Barry's participation as a member. Motion passed by voice vote.

Barry stated that the Task Force's work would be aided if a member of the Study Abroad Student Selection Committee be included.

Porter M/S to amend the original proposal and ask that Barry Bauska, chair of the Study Abroad

Student Selection Committee, appoint a member to the Task Force. Motion passed by voice vote.

Wimberger asked for clarification of the reporting deadlines. Ostrom indicated that the October 2002 reporting date could be a progress report

The amended proposal passed by voice vote.

Next on the agenda was the question of departmental and university honors. Smith reported that this year the History Department had identified more students deserving of departmental honors than the University's formula (10% of graduating majors) allowed. When they contacted the Associate Dean's office, they were told that additional honorees for the current year would result in fewer openings for departmental honors during the next academic year. Smith and Barnett asked the Senate to refer review of this "trade-off" policy to the Academic Standards Committee.

Cooney stated that the whole question of University and Departmental Honors warranted re-examination. Whether a strict grade-point-average standard for eligibility was appropriate and whether a student could be eligible for both University and departmental honors were two of the issues the ASC should re-visit. Cooney also affirmed that he believed departmental honors were potentially more valuable, and that it might be time to consider ending the policy of awarding University honors based solely on grade point average.

Balaam M/S that the Academic Standards committee review policies regarding University and Departmental Honors. Motion passed on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

David Droge, Secretary Pro Tem