

Faculty Senate
McCormick Room, Collins Library
Minutes of the March 9, 2015 meeting

Present:

Pierre Ly, Ariela Tubert, Nila Wiese, Jonathan Stockdale, Andrea Kueter, Kris Bartanen, Bill Haltom, William Beardsley, Emelie Peine, Andrew Gardner, Paige Maney, Chris Spalding, Maria Sampen, Leslie Saucedo, Mike Segawa, Derek Buescher, Zaixin Hong

Guests:

Sigrun Bodine, Dan Burgard

1. Meeting called to order at 4:03 pm

2. Announcements

There were no announcements.

3. M/S/P Approval of the minutes of February 23, 2015 as corrected

4. Updates on Faculty Representatives to Board of Trustees Committees.

Bodine reported on the meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. A request for proposals for a fifth sorority was approved to address concerns about the current sororities being too large and many students (about 40) that started but did not complete the enrollment process. There was an update on emergency preparedness which discussed various drills and connections to the Tacoma Police Department.

Burgard reported on the meeting of the Development and Alumni Relations Committee. Burgard noted that the end of the campaign was approaching this summer and the Board was focused on preparing for the non-campaign period. He mentioned that the campaign has been on target and even exceeding expectations in some areas. There has been an effort and increase in alumni giving, an area where Puget Sound is behind peers in lacking a long-standing tradition.

Tubert submitted a written report from Kate Stirling on the meeting of Finance and Facilities Committee (see Appendix A.)

5. Updates from liaisons to standing committees

Stockdale (Curriculum), Sampen (UAC) and Buescher (PSC) reported that their respective committees were making progress toward fulfilling their charges.

6. Updates from the ASUPS representative and the Staff Senate representative

Maney reported on the ongoing ASUPS election, the success of the recent “Wine Night” event (and thanked Pierre Ly) and discussions before the Media Board concerning the publication *Wetlands*.

Kueter had no report on behalf the Staff Senate.

7. Consider whether to charge an ad hoc committee with investigating ways of improving the course schedule

Continuing the discussion from the previous meeting, several Senators spoke in favor of convening such an ad hoc committee while others argued that this issue is most properly one for the ASC.

Several Senators expressed a degree of dissatisfaction with the survey of opinion on this issue, focusing discussion on the manner in which it was conducted and the lack of input from students.

M/S that the Senate create an ad hoc committee to consider ways of improving the course schedule.

After continued discussion of the relative merits of charging the ASC or forming such an ad hoc group to consider this issue

Motion failed.

M/S/P to suspend the rules so as to move to Other Business for continued discussion.

9. Other Business

Discussion continued, focusing now on the issue of a possible new survey.

M/S/P that the Senate collect data relevant to concerns regarding the course schedule and forward such data to the ASC.

Buescher, Gardner and Stockdale offered to begin work on this project.

8. Discussion of possible biases in student evaluations of teaching.

Discussion focused on the proper forum in which to begin this important discussion and which of the many recent studies of this issue were most valuable and applicable to our institution.

M/S/P Resolved: that the Faculty Senate (2014-2015) hopes that the next Senate will charge the Professional Standards Committee to ascertain which studies of bias in student evaluations of teaching should inform faculty conversation on this issue.

10. Meeting adjourned at 5:29pm.

Minutes prepared by William Beardsley.

Respectfully submitted,

Pierre Ly, Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Attachment: Appendix A

MEMORANDUM

To: The Faculty Senate
From: Kate Stirling, Economics
Re: Finance and Facilities Committee of the Board of Trustees
Date: March 9, 2015

I am unable to attend your meeting today, where Sigrun (Bodine) and Dan (Burgard), the faculty representatives to the other Board committees will present their reports. I teach during your meeting time. In lieu of making a report at the meeting, Ariela asked that I provide a brief written summary of the Committee's deliberations at its February meeting.

As you know, by nature of my appointment to the Budget Task Force, I am also the faculty representative to the Board of Trustees' Finance and Facilities Committee. Much of the format of the February meeting was identical to that of the October one. The one and a half hour long meeting included reports from the subcommittees (Real Estate, Investment, and Facilities), a technology update from William Morse (Chief Information Officer), and a review of our risk management and insurance position.

The Investment Subcommittee spoke of their continued efforts to respond to student (and presumably faculty) concerns regarding socially responsible investing. At this stage, we have no exposure ("no particular stocks") in the "Filthy 15" and, I believe, the Subcommittee would characterize our additional exposure as declining, but not zero. And, my sense is, they would argue that zero will be difficult to achieve. However, several Board members on the Committee spoke strongly in favor of our continuing efforts to do so.

In addition to some minor changes approved in the university's "Gift Acceptance Policy" and the "Pooled Cash Investment Policy," the primary action item from the subcommittees was the motion "to enter into a design-build construction contract and commence construction of the Athletic and Aquatic Center for a total project cost not to exceed \$19,400,000." The motion passed.

Most of the meeting was devoted to financial operations, including the university's 2013-2014 audited financial report, completed in December (we received a "clean opinion") and the 2014-2015 operating projections. The bulk of the time, however, was devoted to the 2015-2016 budget recommendation. At a previous Senate meeting, the Budget Task Force presented its recommendations to you (and, similarly, the recommended budget was presented to staff and students). Once President Thomas has an opportunity to receive input from these constituents and offer modifications to the budget, it is then taken to the Finance and Facilities Committee for approval. That was the primary "action" item of the February meeting. Sherry Mondou and President Thomas provided an overview of the key components of 2015-2016 budget to the Committee members. They highlighted efforts to keep the cost of tuition and room & board in line with market price sensitivity while at the same time ensuring sufficient revenues to facilitate the university's mission. Both of them spoke of the efforts (both 2014-2015 and 2015-2016) to make up lost ground regarding faculty compensation. As you know, the Committee approved the budget.