

**Faculty Senate Minutes
February 13, 2002 Meeting**

Members Present:

Mitzi Bass, Claudia Beach, Ana Caldwell, Vonna Cranston, Dennis DiMarzio, Jane Dunn (for Mike Matthews), Kevin Durand, James Engman, Laura Festa, John Graves, Julia Hall, Wray Jones, Travis Langley, Catherine Leach, Michael Lloyd, Laura Lockwood, Hal McAfee, Marielle McFarland, Richard Miller, Rick McDaniel, John Ragni (for Lea Ann Alexander) Richard Schmid, Phillip Schroeder, Shanta Sharma, Bruce Smith and David Stoddard.

Members absent:

Duane Jackson, John Long

Others Present: Annie Otwell (*Oracle*), Drew Dexter (news reporting)

The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate President Richard Schmid at 3:15 pm.

The minutes of the January 18th 2002 Senate meeting were approved.

President's Report

President Schmid reported on his meeting with Dr. Dunn, including answers to a number of questions submitted to Schmid at the last meeting.

Funding for the Wells Center. Of the \$1.5 million total needed for work on the Wells Center, \$820,000 is from state appropriations, and approximately \$680,000 from 2001 bonds. The primary goal of this work is establishing gender equity in facilities.

Funding for the field house. All of the \$2+ million funds are from private donations.

On the question of existence of an administrative handbook. Schmid reported that an administrative handbook exists, but that it is not an official document or board-approved policy manual. This focus of the handbook is training for new administrators, with emphasis on administrative forms, and that it does not include consideration of decision-making, policies, or procedures.

Christmas decorations for the Henderson House. President Schmid reported that the 2001 budget for the Henderson House allotted \$7,300 for lamps, \$9,700 for accessories, and \$10,000 for art. Funds spent were \$7,400 for decorations, primarily Christmas items that will be reused in future years. \$6,900 was spent on accessories and art.

Schmid also reported that it was confirmed that the intention is for the Henderson House, fully owned by HSU, to be run for profit, with profits going into the Henderson General Fund. A study by Louis Dawkins suggests that the facility will be self-supporting with

40% occupancy. Occupancy is currently running at approximately 30%, with an increase to 70% expected within 3 years.

What specific committees are considered policy-making? The Board of Trustees alone is policy-making. All others are considered advisory committees. Schmid reported that he had discussed top-down versus bottom-up policy-making with President Dunn, and that Dunn stated that he was willing to work on this issue with the faculty. In response to Schmid's question as to which three committees have the most influence, Dunn answered the University Academic Committee, Faculty Senate, and the Graduate Council.

One senator requested information on whether junior college students coming to Henderson with remediation needs will be referred back to the junior colleges for remediation. Another senator questioned whether ACT minimum scores are required for high school students enrolled in college courses.

Is the Information Technology Minor being offered for only one student? Dunn reported that only one student is currently signed up, which has come as a great surprise. Implementation of this minor is currently under consideration. With respect to the origin of offering this minor, it came mutually from President Dunn and from the Board.

Dr. Schmid also reported that he had met with Vice President Bobby Jones on health issues, and Schmid has referred the matter to the Finance Committee.

Schmid solicited questions to take to President Dunn at their next meeting. There was some discussion of how sensitive Henderson is to a pluralistic environment. There was consideration of the expenditure of funds on Christmas decorations, stressing the importance of appreciating the diversity of our community, rather than Henderson focusing on only the one locally predominant religious tradition. In a separate discussion, senators questioned what portion of the current budget is devoted to debt service, and what effect this has on the overall funding of the university.

Committee Reports

Academics Committee

The committee had been asked to consider the roles of the UAC and Graduate Council as policy-making bodies, especially with respect to recommendations made by those committees that were overturned without any feedback. The committee recommended that President Dunn and Vice-President Houston be invited to attend the March meeting. There was senate consensus on this recommendation.

Excellence Awards. The committee was asked to consider the issue of which faculty are eligible to receive these awards and to serve on the awards committee. Specifically, are grand-funded, full-time faculty who only teach one course eligible? The Faculty

Handbook simply specifies “full time faculty”. The committee recommended that this issue be clarified when the Excellence Awards program undergoes its 3-year review next year.

Procedures Committee

The committee had no report.

Building and Grounds Committee

The committee had no report. A report is forthcoming.

Operations Committee

The committee had a report, but no recommendation. The chair of the committee met with Doris Wright and David Epperhart concerning the acquisition of Campus Pipeline. Mr. Epperhart stated that the senate’s opinion recommending not purchasing this software had been considered, but as the technology leader, he considers it important to acquire. He stated that the costs for support of this software would continue to come from the Computer Services budget for the next four years. He was asked if there is an instrument that can measure the level of use of Campus Pipeline, and he replied that there is only the capacity to determine how many users log on.

Finance Committee

The committee presented a report, but had no recommendation. With respect to insurance, there is concern that the changes proposed adversely affect those least able to bear the financial burdens of increased health-care cost. There is also concern that the figures advanced to support the need for changes do not reconcile with the cost of the changes. A senator raised the question of whether the Fringe Benefits Committee, as currently composed, adequately reflects the breadth of the university community. There was discussion of organizing a forum to consider how the bid process was handled. There was discussion of the effect of the limited amount of time employees were given to make decisions, and the nature of the educational process for making those decisions. A desire was expressed that Human Resources provide more information concerning alternatives.

A senator commented that serious consideration should be given to transferring funds from other areas to help meet the insurance costs. The ethics of spending \$700,000 on sorority houses while significantly reducing health coverage was discussed. A senator also commented that the university should look at the mission sensitive nature of budget cuts, and make cuts in other areas. The possibility of recommending no hiring of new vice presidents was raised.

The possible advantages of zero line budgeting were discussed. The funding of summer school was also considered. With respect to bond issuance, there was discussion that a longitudinal study may be advisable.

The chair of the committee distributed a handout on fringe benefits issues for senator's consideration, asking that it be considered "off the record". The President reminded him that since it had been distributed, it was technically "on the record".

Old Business

There was no old business

New Business

A motion was made that the Faculty Senate encourages the use of Reddie Connect by both faculty and students. Following discussion, the motion passed.

A senator noted that the representative of the Oracle had been taping the senate meeting, and wondered if most senators realized that this was taking place. Most expressed that this was a surprise to them. The Oracle's representative stated that she had received permission to tape at a previous senate meeting. She was not certain who had given permission, but based on her description it appeared to have been then-President Wells. Following some discussion, a motion was made that the Oracle be asked to suspend further taping until the Faculty Senate can consider the wisdom of allowing taping. Following discussion, the motion carried. Vigorous discussion continued, with consideration of the Freedom of Information Act, promotion of the general climate of openness, and the examples that the faculty should set for students. The President referred the matter to the Operations Committee.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.