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Senate Meeting, April 20, 2011

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Academic Senate Minutes
Wednesday, April 20, 2011
(Approved)

Call to Order

Senate Chairperson Dan Holland called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Senate Sec. Susan Kalter called the roll and declared a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of April 6, 2011

Motion XXXXII-80: By Sen. Schlessler, seconded by Sen. Farrell, to approve the Senate Minutes of April 6, 2011. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Presentation: NCAA Certification (Jan Murphy, Associate Provost, Jeri Beggs, Faculty Athletics Representative)

Jan Murphy, Associate Provost: We wanted to talk to you about the NCAA certification self-study that we have been conducting as an institution. Institutions like the NCAA every 10 years call for a self-study so we are up on our 10-year cycle. We have been certified for 20 years without conditions. The president asked me to serve as the chair of the NCAA self-study committee. There are about 40 individuals on the committee. Those committees are comprised of faculty, staff, students, alumni, as well as community membership. We've been through nine months of self-study. The NCAA has lots of standards. We had about 150 questions to answer. For the NCAA, if you have an area which you have not accomplished or are not at the standard, you have to correct it immediately. When you submit your document, you have to be 100% compliant. If there is a significant area that you cannot fit within the timeframe of those nine months, you can do a plan for improvement. Only universities have to do plans for improvement in the areas of diversity and gender equity. There are three main areas of study, so we divided our committee into three subcommittees.

The first main area is governance and rules compliance. Rules compliance is all of the details and rules that any athletics program has to comply with. It deals with recruiting, admission, progress toward degree of the student athletes. Governance and rules compliance also deal with how an athletics program is governed within a University. It looks at financial decisions made by Athletics. Is there oversight? This is an area we found no areas where we weren't compliant. Every institution with an athletics program must have an external consultant review all of the rules compliance processes every four years. We do that and so the self-study committee, headed by Debbie Lindberg, looked at the reports of those consultants to make sure that the recommendations are followed.

The second main area was academic integrity and Jeri is going to talk to you about that

Jeri Beggs, Faculty Athletics Representative: This is one area where there was lots of good news. We looked at academic performance and graduation rates. We looked at gender, ethnicity and academic performance variances across those three categories. Student athletes performed at or above the rest of the campus, both in graduation rates and academic performance. Our GPA for student athletes was 3.13. It's been more difficult on the athletic side because of the NCAA standards being increased. We have progress towards degree and APR and standards now that are holding schools more accountable for graduation. As those standards have increased, our athletic study center has felt more pressure. One of things coming out of this is if we could have more space and more staff in order to help the students to meet the standards they are asked to meet.

Associate Provost Murphy: That is one area where we have a plan for improvement. It would be good over the next 10 years if we could increase the space and the staffing. That is within the athletics budget. We do not use the income find for athletics. The only place we see general revenue is where we have grad assistants that are funded to help athletics. Jeri mentioned APRs, academic progress rates. Every sports team at every university has to show that the current students are achieving well academically, but you monitor and help support student athletes even after their eligibility runs out. We still have a responsibility to ensure that they graduate. We have never had a team on this campus that has an APR plan because we have never gone that low. Monitoring ensures that whenever possible our student athletes graduate.

The third main area was gender, diversity and student well-being. Gender equity is a huge issue for the NCAA. 30 or 40 years ago women's sports were treated much differently than men's sports. That's one of the reasons we don't have men's wrestling or men's soccer. We have to spend as much money on women's sports as we do on men's. We have to survey the student body every three years to find out if we are meeting the needs of the student body with the array of sports that we offer. They look at diversity. It's a fact that our student athletic population is a more diverse population than our student body as a whole, so we really have to look at the kind of programs that we offer. We need to provide them with the physical support, mental and emotional support for some of the stress and the strain that our student athletes are under. In that area, we do have three plans for improvement. We're required to do two, one gender and one for diversity; all universities do that. We went ahead and did a third one for student well-being.

Sen. Cox: What is the graduation rate of our athletes?

Associate Provost Murphy: I don't know that off the top of my head, but I will get that answer for you. For our general student population, it's over 70%; for our athletes, it's a little higher.

Sen. Tomasino: With the time schedule being so demanding for athletes, how do they go about getting excused?

Associate Provost Murphy: We have policy 2.1.20, not just for athletics, but for students participating in universe sanctioned events. It's not for practice time. It's only for scheduled travel times. For excused events, we know how many class times every single athlete has missed for the last two years.

Sen. McCue: When you talk about improving diversity, do you mean that the team looks more like the university as a whole or that the team is more diverse ethnically.

Ms. Beggs, Faculty Athletics Representative: Student athletes are a much more diverse population than the university as a whole and we don't want to go back. We like it that they are more diverse. What we're looking at is are the different ethnicities performing equally well as the average.

Sen. Cedeño: One aspect I think you also track is communication with the faculty member who has to fill out these reports for academic progress. How effective is that feedback?

Ms Beggs: It would be more effective if more faculty turned them in. There is a good percentage of faculty members who never respond to those. If there is one message you can send back to your faculty members, it would be that those are really important because there is someone in the athletic study center looking to see how many classes they are missing or if they are at risk. If those don't come in, we don't know that.

Chairperson's Remarks

Sen. Holland: You will notice that we have no administrators here this evening. This is an incredibly busy week with interviews for the Athletic Director, Vice President for Student Affairs. We had our last dean

interviews for the College of Arts and Sciences visits on Monday and Tuesday, so the administrators are all somewhat occupied. Zach Owens is not with us this evening. You may have seen in the news that the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity house burned down. He is a member of that. Does anybody know from administration what is going on with that?

Sen?: I know Student Affairs is working with them to make sure that their needs are met.

Sen. Holland: Faculty, keep in mind that all of their notes and books and everything else also got destroyed, so try to work with them.

Student Body President's Remarks - Absent

Administrators' Remarks

- *President Al Bowman - Absent*
- *Provost Sheri Everts - Absent*
- *Vice President of Student Affairs Steve Adams - Absent*
- *Vice President of Finance and Planning Dan Layzell - Absent*

Committee Reports:

Academic Affairs Committee: Senator Woith – No Report

Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee: Senator Kalter - No Report

Faculty Affairs Committee: Senator Wedwick - No Report

Planning and Finance Committee: Senator Van der Laan - No Report

Rules Committee: Senator Bailey - No Report

Information/Action Items:

04.11.11.02 Credit Hour Policy (Academic Affairs Committee)

Sen. Woith: This is a new policy to put us in compliance with new legislation that mandates we define what a credit hour is. The policy needs to be in effect by July 1, so we're bringing it here tonight as both an Information and an Action Item.

Motion XXXXII-81: By Sen. Woith to make the Information Item an Action Item. The motion was unanimously approved.

Sen. Reifschneider: Is this a recommendation that faculty do this or is this something that is enforced by the Provost?

Dr. Jonathan Rosenthal, EMAS: In developing this policy, we vetted it around campus very extensively, so it went to the Chairs Council; it went out from my office to various list serves. I am about 99.9% sure that every office is compliant with this policy as it is written. It just kind of codifies them in one place and makes us compliant with the new program integrity legislation.

The policy was unanimously approved.

04.11.11.01 Priorities Report for 2011-12 (Planning and Finance Committee)

Sen. Van der Laan: If there are no objections, we would like to move this to action after you all have been informed.

Sen. Kalter: On page 1, one of the questions I had was whether the budget on that has been worked out and if so, how much?

Sen. Van der Laan: As you will notice for all the items on our report there is no particular budget amount mentioned. This is simply to encourage the administration to move forward and then assigning some money.

Sen. Kalter: The second question has to do with an honors curriculum, faculty and dean. Would this in some way be the same as how a graduate faculty would work? The college would publish some sort of criteria to make you an honors program faculty, not that you're hiring in special faculty or moving people from one place to another.

Sen. Van der Laan: That's right. In fact, in a previous iteration of the report, there was a sentence that explains that, but somewhere along the way, we dropped that. I don't know if it was on purpose or an oversight, but that is exactly how an honors faculty would work. The dean of the honors college would also function along the lines of the Dean of Students and the dean of the library.

Sen. Cedeño: Is it the intention of the honors college to grant a degree?

Sen. Van der Laan: No, it would not to grant a degree. Students, however, would graduate with honors.

Sen. McCue: Would this drastically change the way in which students graduate with honors?

Sen. Van der Laan: No, I don't think so. At this point, I really can't answer that question because an honors curriculum has not been designed yet, but I don't think in my conversations with the Honors Director that that is the intention to change how students graduate with honors.

Motion XXXXII-82: By Sen. Van der Laan to move the item to action. The motion was unanimously approved.

Sen. Horst: I wanted to support your statement that says the Fine Arts Project is a top priority.

Motion XXXXII-83: By Sen. Van der Laan to approve the priorities report. The motion was unanimously approved.

Communications:

Sen. Briggs: The student annuals are on at the University Galleries and it's absolutely delightful and worth a look.

Sen. Dawson: This past weekend, Stroud Auditorium's work was revealed at the donor reception Friday night running with Phantom of the Opera. The facility looks great. This is a university facility. If you get a chance to see any kind of performance, I think you'll be in for a real treat.

Sen. Palmer: As you mentioned about the fraternity house burning down, there's going to be tomorrow, at the student fitness center, places where people can drop off things that they might need.

Sen. Tomasino: Most of the Greek system has done a clothing and food drive. Each house is going on with that. If you have things, I would urge you to pass it along to them.

Adjournment

Motion XXXXII-84: By Sen. Schlessler, seconded by Sen. Collins, to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.