

The regular meeting of the 2002-2003 Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by President Art Sanders. The following senators were present for all or part of the meeting: Cairns, Dougherty, Goldford, Klugman, Lovell, McKnight, Parsa, Reed, Reincke, Sanders, A, Sanders, B, Schaefer, Sheehy, Shulman, Simpson, Soltis, Vitha, Wright.  
Absent: Esposito, Hunter, Wade

The Senate went into Executive Session to consider the Honorary Degrees and Drake Medal candidates.

April 16, 2003 minutes were accepted as presented.

Report from President Maxwell

-- The search for the Vice President for Institutional Advancement continues. Three persons will be visiting campus in the next few weeks as possible candidates. Each person currently holds a Vice Presidential position. Mr. John Whiley who has served as the search and advancement office consultant will be taking over as the Interim Vice President for Advancement.

Report from Provost Troyer

- Provost Troyer encouraged the faculty to attend the Commencement ceremonies this next week.
- Jerry Price's last day will be in early June 2003. There will be an Interim Dean of Students appointed.
- The current Dean searches are progressing. Provost Troyer expects to have full slate of Deans in place before the Fall 2003 semester.
- The summer web course enrollments are up from last year. There are 45 Drury students enrolled currently in our partnership agreement with this ANAC institution.

Report from President Sanders

- Vice President Payseur was introduced to answer questions concerning the tax form 990. She distributed summary information to the Senators. Senator Wright noted that the student newspaper only listed some names and he appreciated the information presented. No questions were presented.
- Faculty Senate elections are almost completed for the 2003-2004 Senate. There will be an organizational meeting next week for election of the Executive Committee.
- President Sanders presented a brief report from the Information Resource Policies and Issues (IRPI) Committee. Committee Chair John Edwards has indicated that there will be a report presented next fall on Information Technology (IT) issues. In addition, the committee has reviewed their charge and pending restructuring in campus technology offices and committees, the IRPI committee believes they should continue for at least another year.

Unfinished Business:

Upon proper motion and second motion **03.17**

*change the 2.0 gpa Participation Rule based on the following Student Senate motion*

- 1) The University's 2.0 academic eligibility policy ought to be modified in such a way that freshman and transfer students are given a transition period from high school to college.
- 2) This transition period would be the first semester of the student's career at Drake University.
- 3) At the conclusion of the student's second semester, the student must have met the cumulative 2.0 grade point average requirement to remain eligible for activities.

- 4) At the completion of the transition semester, the student must have a 1.5 GPA in order to be allowed to retain eligibility.
- 5) If an individual falls below a 1.5 during this transition period they are ruled ineligible. In regards to student athletes, in addition to being banned from competitions, their practice hours are reduced to 8 hours a week – the norm for non-season athletes.
- 6) The University's academic eligibility policy ought to apply to all student leaders equally, regardless of the nature of their leadership position.

Senator Goldford noted that since 90% of the students affected by the 2.0 gpa standard do make this standard, then the 10% should be able to make this level. He indicated he would vote against this motion and encouraged others to vote against.

Senator Klugman noted that student athletes are held to a different standard. They are in a leadership position as soon as they walk in the door and this can be a strain on the athletes. He felt that having an additional semester is not unreasonable. He continued that on the other hand he was cautious of this change to be seen as a license to not perform academically. The academic standard is known to the student. Senator Klugman stated he was willing to give this policy change a chance.

Senator Klugman moved and Lovell seconded an amendment to add:

*the change would be in effect until June 2006 and  
without further action of the Senate the change  
would refer back to the original 2.00 gpa participation policy.*

Senators Goldford and McKnight opposed the amendment.

With a show of hands vote (5-12); the amendment failed.

Senator Lovell indicated he would abstain on the vote on the motion based on the fact that he does not directly have student athlete teaching experience. He reminded the body of his comments at the last meeting where he was in favor of the consideration of a transition period.

Senator McKnight and Goldford spoke against the motion. Senator Schaefer asked to know what existing mechanisms are available for student athletes to receive academic assistance. Assistant Provost Wanda Everage was recognized to answer the question. She indicated that there are two positions, funded by the athletic department which report to Ms Everage, who work individually with student athletes and others. There is also a seminar class held during the fall semester for athletes and other students. She indicated that the athletes have access to the same if not a little bit more resources for academic assistance than all students.

Student Body President Thomas Laehn was recognized and stated that the Student Senate was concerned with the fact that first year student were a higher percentage of the persons affected by this policy. There was some discussion of what standards are needed for continuing eligibility by NCAA standards and the fact that these are calculated at the end of each summer for the following year.

Athletic Director David Blank was recognized for remarks. He noted that this is a difficult issue and he reviewed data from the past few years of student success when the gpa was below 2.00. He noted that the current discussion had not touched on the reality that the basketball teams are being penalized by this policy as they have their competition spread over two semesters. The Fall and Spring semester sports participants can be affected by the policy but be mostly

unnoticed and not lose any athletic eligibility. He supported the Student Senate proposal. This would allow the first year students to be evaluated at the end of a year. He wanted to be part of the solution and realizes well why the policy was first created.

Senator Vitha asked a general question as to whether or not there was interest within the Senate to consider a different gpa level between 1.50 and 2.00.

Senator Simpson indicated she had always had a problem with the discrimination against those persons involved in two semester sports. She indicated she would be more comfortable with a higher gpa than 1.50.

Senator Sheehy noted that there are many high school to college transition pressures and he did not understand an unwillingness to give students a break.

Senator Simpson moved and Klugman seconded an amendment

*Amend the gpa level from 1.50 to 1.70*

After no discussion and on a show of hands vote (6 to 10), the amendment failed.

The main motion failed on a roll call vote.

Student Body President Laehn thanked the Faculty Senate for considering this issue.

New Business: non presented

The meeting adjourned at 4:40p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Nancy Geiger