

The meeting of the 2013-2014 Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by President De Laet. The following senators were present for all or part of the meeting: Courard-Hauri, Dao, Esposito, Fejes, Leroux, Pisarski, Reed, L Reel Schmidt, Schmidt, Sidon, Simpson, Sleister, Soltis, Summerville, Swilky, Urness, Vandegrift, Vitha and Wright.

Absent: Alexander, McCarthy

The February 2014 meeting minutes were accepted.

President Maxwell report:

President Maxwell spoke recently at an education conference as a panel member discussing whether or not liberal arts survive in this day and age. The Cabinet has approved the request for the first stage of the One Card System. It will bring electronic locks to the exterior doors of campus buildings and other capabilities will include an automatic lockdown feature. This is expected to be in place by August 1, 2014. Vice President Tom Delahunt indicates that there will be more applications than we have ever had, the student profiles are strong and tuition deposited students are sitting at twenty more than last year at this time. President Maxwell reminded the body that the next phase is very critical as students begin receiving their financial aid packages (which is happening about one week earlier this year than last) and students and families are attending admitted students days.

Provost Jones report:

Provost Jones stated she liked having the opportunity to reflect before there is Spring Break by doing some forward thinking. She recently attended the American Council on Education (ACE) annual meeting where the theme was seizing the opportunity. She felt there were many examples which affirmed what we are doing at Drake and in many instances where we are ahead. She continued by stating that we all wrestle with the changing times and the need to be nimble in our decision making. She recognized the hard work which the Deans Council has done to communicate with their teams towards a collective branding of the graduate programs, Institutional Research's Office to share the assessment data and the many faculty who are engaged in the TIG process. Provost Jones acknowledges there is some ambiguity and with so much change some of that will remain. She asked if Senators are taking on the right leadership roles to be change agents as we, both leadership and faculty, need to keep pushing forward.

Provost Jones reminded the group that if we do nothing different, then we will not change. And even though the sky is not falling, we as academic leadership need to understand the message and carry it forward. She cited the following as positive example: the School of Journalism and Mass Communication has brought forward a proposal for a new program which is meant to identify opportunity for new students not simply a cannibalization of existing students.

She reminded the group of the March 14th Faculty Mingle at noon in the Cline Atrium. She challenged the group to attend and participate in the conversations which will be themed around internationalization.

President DeLaet report:

Student Senate Liaison Olivia O'Hea shared that Student Senate is soon to be entering student elections and is well into their budget considerations. She indicated a decision has been made to dip into the Student Development Fund rather than to simply keep it in reserve.

Mr. Todd Hodgkinson, Chair of the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) was introduced and he immediately thanked the committee members himself. He offered that he believed they had risen to the challenge that was

presented to them. The UCC first worked to get clarification of revision vs. review and then divided themselves into subcommittees. They were careful to separate the language of liberal education and general education. The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment Director, Kevin Saunders and Stephanie Majeran, Assessment Coordinator helped them gather data, lead focus groups, and helped bring Wabash College representatives to campus. Mr. Hodgkinson also acknowledged the literature review and web page assistance of Marcia Keyser, UCC Vice Chair.

Mr. Hodgkinson had a presentation (posted on the Senate website) which started with various Points of Pride and known Concerns gathered from several years. The committee looked at different models and tried to look at similar institutions. They did find several trends where the current Drake curriculum does represent a positive move away from solely a disciplinary centered general education. There were two particular approaches which stood out to the committee: (a) an Integrated Core Curriculum and (b) Majors/Minors Model. Portland State University was displayed in the presentation as an example of the Integrated Core Curriculum and College of Idaho a representative of the Majors/Minors model.

He stressed that the UCC was consistently concerned with credit hours, human and capital resources and how it might play out at Drake. The definition or 'idea' of the minor at Drake would need to be reworked. Mr. Hodgkinson used the School of Education as an example stating that their minor would need to target non-education minors. The UCC selected nine attributes of a distinctive general education program and these included preserving and building on the first year seminars and senior capstone courses. Mr. Hodgkinson concluded his presentation stating the two recommendations contained in the UCC report: 1) to vote to approve a revision of the Drake Curriculum and 2) to vote to establish a working group to revise the Drake Curriculum. The first recommendation offered two options.

Senator Fejes offered her thanks for the enormous amount of work and great job performed by the committee to distill so much information in such a short time. Senator Vandegrift asked if the UCC had identified a school which was looking to move through this process. Mr. Hodgkinson offered that some documents did talk about the process which could take two to three years. Associate Provost Art Sanders indicated he had identified a source at the University of Idaho. When asked, he offered that their motivation to move to the Majors/Minors Model was based on dissatisfaction with their previous system.

Senator McCrickard saw a major drawback to the integrated core is the resources which it would require. Senator Leroux, also a UCC member, indicated that part of the need for a two to three year process is to identify and plan for change and she stressed to be sensitive to the change.

President Maxwell stated that he too was impressed with the comprehensive thoughtful presentation. He indicated he sees two themes: 1) the need to address a general education with discipline breadth and 2) developing a set of learning outcomes. He stressed the need to keep the learning outcomes involved in the whole curriculum, general education and beyond.

Senator Summerville reminded the body that in September 2013 both the UCC and Drake Curriculum Assessment Committee (DCAC) were given direction by Senate. He asked to know DCAC's progress. Mr. Hodgkinson, also a DCAC member, indicated they had spent time with the Wabash Report and NSSE data. He noted that curriculum and assessment are intertwined. The two models in the report state four outcomes and this will make the assessment easier and pervasive throughout the curriculum.

Senator Courard-Hauri asked what impact there would be on present course offerings. Mr. Hodgkinson indicated that faculty development in course design is one answer to that question. Senator Swilky asked how much access the committee had been given when reviewing other institutions, such as reviewing their syllabi. The reply was yes, to some extent, but that more of that direct research would be appropriate during the next steps. Senator Leroux stated that as the Majors/Minors Model was new to the UCC, it did seem to leverage the size, current structure and Drake's identity along with satisfying portions of the Wabash Report. She saw that model as a positive way to

produce graduates who are well rounded and therefore worthy for exploration. Senator Esposito noted the words in the Wabash Report about identity and he did not want to look backwards to 2007 but rather look forward. Senator Wright suggested the UCC needed an extra special spring break based on the work within this report and he did not want to lose the momentum. He stated that if this report simply gets shelved it will be devastating and he does not want the work on good general education at Drake to stop. Senator Summerville stated that whatever is done needs to be adequately resourced and 'sell-able'. The value is in recommendation number two to create a group which crosses administration and faculty and develops a sustainable product.

Senator McCrickerd offered that the names of Majors/Minors may need to be changed to Majors and Concentrations. She cautioned to use the label minors as it may appear as if we are changing rather than creating something new.

President De Laet encouraged Senators to talk to colleagues and constituents concerning this topic and to give feedback to Senate Executive Committee so that next steps can be planned. She again thanked the UCC for the work, regardless of where we end up with the matter.

President De Laet reminded the group that there are two regular meetings remaining and a special meeting on April 2nd.

The meeting closed at 4:51 p.m.

Secretary, Nancy Geiger