

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, Fejes, Leroux, Reed, B. Schmidt, L Schmidt, Sidon, Simpson, Sleister, Soltis, Summerville, Swilky, Urness, and Vitha.

Absent: Alexander, Esposito, McCarthy, McCrickerd, Pisarski, Vandegrift, Wright

The September 2013 meeting minutes were accepted.

President Maxwell Report:

An announcement will be sent soon regarding the re-titling of the Office of Business & Finance. The new name will be the Office of Finance and Administration and Vice President Newsom's title will also reflect this change. This will not reflect other reporting lines or office titles.

President Maxwell indicated he will be scheduling meetings with college and schools to hear what is on your minds. This is an opportunity to hear from individuals and learn. He indicated he is looking forward to the meetings.

The recent Board of Trustees meeting included the following major decisions. 1) Approval to go ahead with construction of a basketball practice facility which has over six million dollars raised of the \$7.5 million project. All donors are either significant donors to all portions of the University or would only be donating to this project. 2) Approved to the Actuarial Science departmental designation upgrade 3) Approved the design phase for what is called the STEM project. At Drake the 'E' stands for Education. Within the Master Campus Plan there were two new buildings and overall lab renovations. This project is for a connector building between Fitch and Olin. Additionally there will be a building to hold the School of Education and the Computer Science/Math department. The total project approval was for \$55 million including significant bond debt. The January 2014 Board agenda will include approving the project plan with more details. President Maxwell was excited for this project and its impact for both the current faculty but the ability to promote Drake to prospective students and their families.

Senator Soltis asked when might ground breaking occur for either of the buildings. President Maxwell offered that it is not clear, as the funding and design phase will have a great impact on that answer. The School of Education and Computer Science/Math building could be underway within the next 12 to 24 months. In response to a follow up question, President Maxwell indicated that the School of Education and Computer Science/Math building would be approx. \$11 million and the other building and lab renovations would involve \$44 million.

Provost Jones Report:

Provost Jones shared that she was recently honored by her undergraduate institution and it was very humbling.

The Deans Council has been working hard on how to better communicate and this is directly related to the message which the Provost heard as she visited with individuals last year. There will be a pilot offering of conversations, through the Deans Council. This will not be a top down effort as man will have an opportunity to participate as communication is important to the entire Drake community. The communication effort includes the concepts from a Harvard Business Review article which emphasizes intimacy (being personal in the messages and authentic), interactivity (allows for a dialog such as town hall meetings or focus groups), inclusive (giving up a bit of control and expanding the roles of others to do some of the communicating such as the message does not need to come from the Provost), and intentional (deliberate and thoughtful to allow others to see the strategic focus).

President De Laet report:

Olivia O’Hea, Student Senate liaison, announced the Academic Affairs dinner on November 7th. She requested R.S.V.P.s and to let her become aware of special dietary needs. The Academic Affairs Committee is looking at mid-term grading and meeting with the Advising TIG.

Ms. Mandi McReynolds, Director of Community Engagement and Service-Learning and Assistant Director Renee Sedlacek update the Senate on their work within the Strategic Plan Goal Working Group #4. The effort includes looking at how the university is engaging at the local/nation level. They are applying for a specific Carnegie classification which requires looking at how the University is engaged with the community. An audit is being performed to assist in the application as well as an internal and external survey of what employees are engaged in within the community. These are important surveys and Senate support was requested. Additionally external focus groups will be convened. The core questions will revolve around what is Drake doing to make sure it is meeting the needs of the community. Ms. McReynolds stated that current Drake partners as well as organizations not currently engaged will be solicited. She requested input concerning any of the initiatives especially learning about possible outside groups to contact.

President DeLaet gave an update on J-Term. She stated with some background citing that last year’s Faculty Senate asked the J-Term Oversight Committee to examine closer some 2013 post J-Term survey comments pertaining to the calendar and how tight J-Term fits with the Spring semester. A Working Group was formed and prepared a one page report in which they believed it was too soon to make any suggested calendar changes. The report did suggest (a) when building the 2014 assessment instrument, more focus should be put on this question and (b) the one area which could be changed immediately was the date the grades are due. It was clarified that these were not recommendations. Senate Executive Committee looked seriously at the report and requested from CAAD (Council of Academic and Administrative Departments) feedback concerning the grade deadline. The response was mixed. They were open to the possibility and yet also had reservations. President DeLaet indicated that Senate Executive Committee had mixed responses to forwarding any motion, at this time, to Senate. They did ask the Associate Provost Sanders to target communication to 2014 instructors to help them prepare for the tight turn around between J-Term and Spring.

Senator Courard-Hauri indicated he was surprised at the number of IP’s (In Progress) given and wondered if a grading extension would this really fix the problem. Senate Summerville offered that he knows of CAAD’s concerns and yet does not know if they are real or perceived. He was not comfortable with the IP grade work around and thus giving the instructors the impression that this is acceptable. Senator Fejes stated one J-Term is not enough data to make decisions. Senator Soltis agreed and hoped that with good communication and awareness the 2014 J-Term will prove less stressful.

President De Laet gave an update on the ongoing Drake Curriculum discussion. She announced an open faculty forum will be held on October 30th at 3:30 p.m. in Cowles Library. This event is planned to provide an opportunity for open conversation and listening. University Curriculum Committee (UCC) chair Todd Hodgkinson will share the UCC’s approach. Senator Summerville noted the Drake Curriculum Analysis Committee (DCAC) also had its charge modified and desired to know their meeting status and whether or not their meeting minutes would be available to Senators and faculty. Associate Provost Sanders indicated that he believed the minutes would be posted once approved. Senator Summerville appreciated the current efforts and desired to know what type of negative comments are prevalent. President De Laet indicated that in many ways there has not been much. She has been involved in many small group and individual conversations noting that one topic, money, has arisen. While money and budget are important she emphasized that as the conversations continue about what the curriculum is and could be the topic is not in the forefront at this time. Finally, the expectation is that UCC’s spring semester report will be a set of findings rather than a preliminary report.

Unfinished Business – none presented

New Business – none presented

The meeting closed at 4: 25 p.m.

Secretary, Nancy Geiger