

The meeting of the 2012-2013 Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by President Summerville. The following senators were present for all or part of the meeting: Alexander, Bartschat, Chesnut, Clapham, Dao, De Laet, Fejes, Frazier, Gilbert, McCrickerd, Pisarski, Reed, Reincke, Schmidt, Soltis, Summerville, Vandegrift, Vitha and Wright.

Absent: Mallea, Sanders, Sidon

The February 2013 meeting minutes were accepted.

President Maxwell report

President Maxwell began his report by extending his appreciation for the Senate's endorsement of the University Archive designation for Cowles Library. He indicated the Office of the President will work with the appropriate parties to have University policies crafted.

Upon Sue Wright's retirement, Raylene Rospond will, this summer, begin handling the duties of coordinating the strategic plan.

In cooperation with Deans Council, the June Board of Trustees meeting will include an experience of current life at college. It will be a mini-college and President Maxwell expressed his appreciation to the faculty who agreed to participate.

Currently, the Fall 2013 undergraduate admission report indicates a slight decrease from last year. The decrease is not a large number. There are several positive signs such as well attended home receptions and the admitted student bus trip from the Chicago area.

Provost Jones report:

Provost Jones's report was a set of announcements. A Learning Symposium will be held at Drake in mid-August 2013. She has asked individual faculty for session ideas. Also the afternoon of August 23, 2013, will be a new convocation event featuring an inspirational speaker. Finally, May 6th, at 3:00 p.m. in Levitt Hall will be the retirement reception for Sue Wright. Provost Jones encouraged all faculty to put these events on their calendars.

President Summerville report:

Stephen Slade, Academic Affairs Liaison from Student Senate, opened his remarks indicating there is ongoing work developing an advising plan. He stated the students are looking to have a vision of how it should work, completed this spring semester. The draft plan outlines an aspirational system for both faculty and students.

Mr. Slade also reminded the body that concerning today's plus/minus grading motion, the students were 80% against or strongly against the change. He requested the body remember the student sentiment.

Associate Provost Art Sanders presented comments from the JTerm Oversight Committee. He indicated the post JTerm surveys contained many positive results and comments. A very high percentage of students would recommend the experience to other students. One concern which arose from the surveys was the quick turnaround from JTerm to the Spring semester. The Oversight Committee thought it premature to draft a change based on this one experience. It is something to look into and remember to put into next year's planning and assessment instrument. Also, several Spring 2013 and Fall 2013 faculty to faculty conversations are being held and scheduled so that individuals who actually taught during JTerm 2013 can share their experience.

Senator McCrickerd encouraged the JTerm Oversight Committee to explore alternatives sooner. President Summerville supported such a review noting the Oversight Committee should operate as a proactive group. He appreciated the surveys

and the results. Finally, President Summerville encouraged Senators to pay attention to the survey comments especially the effects on existing administrative offices, such as the International Programs Office.

Nancy Geiger, Faculty Senate Secretary, announced the roster of 2013-2014 Senators is not yet complete. The roster may not be finalized until during Spring Break.

Vice President of Business and Finance, Deborah Newsom was present at Senate and willing to address questions from last week's Town Hall Business and Finance presentation. She indicated the power point used at the presentation will be posted within blueView shortly. Ms. Newsom concluded with a reminder that the slide outlining a set of capital needs is not a confirmed list rather a set of dreams.

President Summerville noted there are several Senate committees which have their meeting minutes posted on line. The list includes the Budget Committee, Drake Curriculum Assessment Committee (DCAC) and the University Benefits Committee (UBC). He indicated he expects UBC representatives to be present at the April meeting. Also, he encouraged Senators to pay attention to the DCAC documents. DCAC members made a presentation to Senate earlier this year and they are making progress on all of their initiatives.

Unfinished Business – none presented

New Business:

Senators DeLaet moved and Alexander seconded motion **13-19**:

Endorse Crew Scholars Program Proposal

Associate Professor of English Melisa Klimaszewski and William Hatchet, New Student Academic Facilitator, were introduced and presented the Crew Scholars Program. *Secretary's note: their presentation was posted to the Faculty Senate website following the March meeting.* The presenters recapped retention statistics by race and ethnicity in recent years at Drake and articulated the collective campus climate concern surrounding the lower retention rates for individuals within certain groups. Their goal is to increase the recruitment and retention of domestic students of color. The proposal, which does not create separate admission requirements for the Crew Cohort, will help emphasize the point of an institutional commitment to changing for the better the existing campus culture. The effort will be a part of the Quality Initiative for the HLC and meet criteria laid out in Drake's Strategic Plan.

Senator Clapham asked a question concerning the resources for this proposal. She asked is it viable within our budget. Ms. Klimaszewski offered that a grant is in process to offer capital funding for the first year, a building year. President Maxwell offered that fundraising possibilities exist within the university's budget and via private funding. Senator Clapham continued that she thought this was a great program and proposal and liked that individuals will be meeting existing admission requirements. Senator Alexander asked that if the motion to endorse were to pass, then what would happen next. Mr. Hatchet stated the next steps for the project to move forward with Admission and getting the Drake Community ready for this program. The administrative home for the program will be within the office of the Associate Provost for Academic Excellence and Student Success. Ms. Klimaszewski noted that various campus units, such as Cowles Library, have already come forward with collaboration connections.

The motion passed without dissent.

Senators Pisarski and Vitha moved and seconded motion **13-20**:

Approve a change to grading policy: Faculty Manual 2.132

That Drake University extends to all instructors the ability to assign plus/minus grade modifiers in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs beginning with the Fall 2016 semester.

(Note that this proposal will not affect the Law School, whose faculty already have the ability to assign plus/minus modifiers).

Senator Clapham drew attention to the phrase in the motion “extends the ability”. In her perspective that is within each unit and it needs to be recognized that some classes may not use the plus/minus grading option.

Senator McCrickerd asked if the 80% figure for students was from a poll taken before the Fall 2016 implementation timing was determined. Stephen Slade indicated yes. The followup question asked what he might predict as the current percentage. Mr. Slade did not believe it would as high as there is some apathy concerning the issue now.

Senator De Laet reminded the group that someone can not be forced to include the plus and minus option for a course. She did not see this as a dramatic change to grading. Senator Clapham expressed her thought that it could amplify differences in course and teaching.

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed (12 to 6).

Senators De Laet and Alexander moved and seconded motion **13-21**:

Approve delaying the implementation of Experiential Learning requirement until Fall 2014

President Summerville gave some background information concerning the motion. He indicated that CAAD (Council of Administrative and Academic Departments) while discussing the implementation of the requirement became concerned about the being able both technologically and substantial to meet the needs of the entering students. CAAD proposed and submitted to UCC (University Curriculum Committee) the request to delay implementation one year. Senate Executive Committee was the body to extend the delay one more year. Senator De Laet offered there may be potential tension in what is within the motion which originally passed and the desire to spend time preparing for the requirement.

Senator Clapham indicated her concerns are not that she is against Experiential Learning rather that this is just another AOI requirement. It is supposed to be an outcome based requirement but it might be within courses already. She expressed uncertainty if the institution has the mechanisms in place to handle this as a requirement for all bachelors seeking students.

Ms Johanna Mosser was recognized. She served as the UCC when the Learning requirement was discussed. Ms. Mosser indicated that what UCC advanced was ambiguous and it was not clear what defined a significant experience. The motion at that time did not include how to evaluate or validate the experience. She made it clear that she values these experiences and expressed an interest that Drake be intentional in what was asked of faculty, students and administration concerning this requirement.

Mr. Art Sanders was recognized and presented two clarifications. First, Experiential Learning is not an AOI (Area of Inquiry) and he offered, it is not as if the UCC has not done anything. The Provost has appointed an Experiential Learning Council which has worked to develop standards and criteria for experiences to be approved, such as a new proposal for Residence Hall Assistant training and experience to satisfy the requirement. The proposal is going to UCC soon.

Senator De Laet expressed concern that her challenge is when a requirement is embedded into existing curriculum then it is not changing what Drake is doing. She wondered what the value was in that requirement. Additionally, she desired to be intentional about the experience rather than it being a mere add on.

Senator McCrickerd agreed the non-course option comes from the Task Force and while the Experiential Learning could happen during the JTerm and some colleges and schools have their own requirements, then part of the need is to acknowledge that Experiential Learning is already happening at Drake. There are limitations of adding on credit hours to existing programs.

Senator Reincke reminded the body that the motion came from CAAD and reviewed by UCC. It was the Senate Executive Committee which moved the implementation term in the presented motion farther into the future.

Student David Karaz was recognized and asked if students were involved in the creation of this requirement. The answer was yes.

The motion passed without dissent.

President Summerville indicated he expects a motion for consideration at the April or May meeting from the Ad Hoc Committee reviewing the Senate Rules and Regulations.

The meeting closed at 4:46 p.m.

Secretary, Nancy Geiger