

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: Bartschat, Chesnut, Dao, DeLaet, Fejes, Frazier, Gilbert, Mallea, McCrickerd, Pisarski, Reed, Reincke, Sanders, Schmidt, Sidon, Soltis, Summerville, Vitha, and Vandegrift.

Absent: Alexander, Clapham, Wright

December 2012 regular meeting minutes were accepted.

President Maxwell report:

President Maxwell indicated that as a result of recent Vice Presidential level discussions, there will be a slight, yet important change in undergraduate enrollment strategy. While the discount rate has been 'tried' to be driven down in the past few years, and needs to remain an important number, the goals within the Undergraduate Enrollment Task Force report will become more of a driving force. For the next few years, there will be more effort placed on enrolling 900 quality students than targeting a lower discount rate. President Maxwell emphasized that maintaining and improving the quality of students will remain the overriding goal for Drake Admission.

At the recent Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting, approval was given for the Fiscal Year 14 budget assumptions. An announcement will be made soon concerning a 4.3% increase in tuition for next year. Even with this increase, President Maxwell believes Drake will maintain the current status on the Great School Great Values list. He appreciated the work of the Budget Advisory Committee as their proposal was accepted by Cabinet and the Board without alterations.

His report concluded by sharing that the recent Board meeting included a rich discussion about collaborative shared governance. Drake has a Board that wishes to be engaged and helpful with an emerging strong interest in Board and faculty engagement.

President Maxwell introduced Drake alum, Larry Zimpleman, the current Board of Trustees Chair. Mr. Zimpleman's comments began with a recap of his post-Drake education work experience. He was asked to be on the Drake board in 2006. Mr. Zimpleman offered that he feels his goal is to strengthen the relationship between Drake and the Des Moines community. He does not believe the Des Moines business community has embraced Drake enough. This is not only a great university but it needs to be seen as a place which is focused on driving relationships, collaboration, and joint efforts.

What is the Board's perception of Drake's faculty was a question which he answers by listening to other business individuals who serve on higher education boards. The Drake Board of Trustee interaction is positive. Mr. Zimpleman recognized that faculty are key at a University and engaged faculty are very important. He indicated that Drake's Board has a genuine appreciation for Drake being in a really good spot right now. He also cited the highly collaborative process which Drake used in updating the Strategic Plan. He called it an aspirational five year plan that the Board can get behind.

His remarks closed announcing that perhaps at the June 2013 BOT meeting there will be more Board and faculty engagement. It has been proposed for faculty to show Board members what it is like in a classroom now. Mr. Zimpleman noted his time in a classroom was a couple of decades ago.

President Summerville also commented on the recent Board of Trustee meeting. He and Vice President Deb DeLaet attended. The goal of having the next Faculty Senate President attend was to build consistent relationships between Board and Faculty Senate leadership.

Provost Jones report:

Provost Jones welcomed the Senate back to the Spring semester. She reported that she lead the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee in an interactive activity as an introduction to the Association of Governing Board Project

titled Improving Board Oversight of Educational Quality. Additionally, the activity's purpose was to allow the board to understand and have an informed appreciation of what higher education is today and our meaning of a culture of evidence.

Also, Provost Jones asked faculty to be considerate of the students who may have had challenges due to the weather conditions today and in the past few days.

President Summerville report:

Stephen Slade, Student Senate Liaison also welcomed everyone to the Spring semester. He highlighted a couple of current activities on the Student Senate agenda including improved student advising.

Associate Provost Art Sanders offered to Senate that initial JTerm 2013 comments, while subjective, was that it was overall successful. The JTerm Fair will be Feb 20th from 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. which will include a showcase of 2013 courses.

Provost Jones and Vice President Tom Delahunt presented an overview of the Quality Initiative (QI) which Drake must undertake as a part of the next Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation. Ms. Jones opened with expressing her appreciation that Drake has an HLC accreditation expert on campus, Sue Wright. The QI proposal draft which has been presented to Senate is

Drake University undertake a Quality Initiative to create a sustainable effort to alter the university culture to ensure that people of all races and ethnicities will find a welcoming and supportive environment at Drake University, and concomitantly to increase racial and ethnic diversity among Drake students, faculty and staff.

Mr. Delahunt offered that when the topic was first discussed at Cabinet, he was skeptical. Yet, as the proposal was discussed he became engaged with the plan as it more than just a plan to do something but a call to assess what Drake is doing on the topic. President Summerville related he sees the topic building on and being a synergy among the main strategic plan goals. He cited this QI calls for Drake to achieve and support difference in the pedagogy and community engagement activities.

Provost Jones then asked the Senate three discussion questions: a) What are the benefits? b) What are some barriers we can control? c) Who are some of the constituents which need to be involved?.

Senate Fejes noted that the only aspect talked about today was race and she wondered if other aspects need to be included. Senator DeLaet indicated she had enthusiasm for the first time about something which involves assessment and accreditation. She was excited for this pathway to help make Drake a better place.

Senator Vandegrift agreed that race is important and she shared personal knowledge that Drake is not friendly or comforting to racially minority students. She cited there is a level of interest on campus in internationalization more than excitement of than infusing diversity on campus. Ms Rachel Cramer addressed the Senate. As a member of the faculty on the Working Group to Infusing International and Multicultural, she was very pleased with this proposal. Regarding which groups would be addressed within the proposal, she read it to be underrepresented groups. It is vital aspiration, she concluded.

Cowles Library Dean Rod Henshaw offered that this proposal was supported by Deans Council. Senator McCrickered offered that if we take it seriously, then we'll have to look at ourselves. How can I learn more and change what I do, she said. She concluded that it will be interesting.

Two School of Education students spoke to Senate. They indicated that at Drake they have had support from their working professional peers but not always from their faculty. They were pleased to see the issue being addressed. They encouraged that students be asked what the current Drake experience is like and what needs to change. Do not fear students. They emphasized that persons who come to Drake have already gotten over some barriers and they need to understand that their presence is valued.

President Maxwell expressed his excitement for this QI. He noted it will be a challenge to do more than just have a conversation. It will be a challenge for all of us to look beyond what are they going to do, but look at what am I, as an individual, going to do with this topic. Provost Jones thanked the group for the engaged, thoughtful comments. President Summerville indicated the proposal will come back to Senate in February for endorsement.

President Summerville affirmed that Cowles Library room 201 is the location for the Faculty Forum concerning plus/minus grading next Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. till 4:30 p.m. He stated that after a short set of opening remarks he looks for there to be an open discussion to determine if this policy change is appropriate for Drake. He encouraged the Senators to participate in the faculty vote. Those results will be a signal to Drake concerning the possible policy change.

New Business:

Senator Schmidt moved and DeLaet seconded motion **13-11**:

Approve Spring Break 2014 as March 17-21, 2014

President Summerville clarified that these are the dates for the Des Moines Public Schools 2014 Spring Break.

The motion passed without dissent.

Senator Soltis moved and Vitha seconded motion **13-12**:

Approve the academic calendar 2015-2016 and 2016-2017

Senator Gilbert asked that the document include the Drake Relays Friday class dismissal time (1:50 p.m.) and that the May Commencement be clarified as the non-Law events.

The motion passed without dissent.

Senators Fejes moved and Soltis seconded motion: **13-13**:

Propose the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Senate Rules and Regulations. The charge to this committee will be twofold:

- 1) language and grammar "cleanup" of the current Faculty Senate Rules and Regulations;*
 - and*
 - 2) review and propose changes/clarifications to procedures, policies and other issues of substance within the Rules and Regulations.*
- This committee will be appointed by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.*

President Summerville reminded the body that he has previously announced the realization that he and Senator Alexander had concerning the age and condition of the Senate Rules and Regulations. He offered that it has been some time since the document has had a thorough review. Additionally, he believed that an ad hoc group will be able to give sound consideration to how faculty governance should be handled at Drake. When asked for a specific example he offered that perhaps a Senate Affairs Committee should exist to review procedural matters and routinely examine how the Senate as a deliberative body works. Senator Sanders asked the expected lifespan of this ad hoc group. President Summerville would like to think a semester is enough time, but he did not want to assume what time would be needed

for a quality examination. Additional clarifications were made concerning what the two portions of the review and whether or not the document must return to the Senate as one document.

The motion passed without dissent.

Senator Gilbert asked for unanimous consent from the body to strike the word 'March' from Motion 13-10 which passed in December 2012. The motion concerned Faculty Senate bringing the plus/minus policy change to an all faculty of instruction vote. His purpose is to allow the voting procedure to be held sooner than March 1. Without dissent, the body agreed. President Summerville replied to an inquiry that the voting will begin on February 13th, one week after the forum.

Senator Reed asked what publicity is planned for the Forum. President Summerville indicated that an announcement has been posted in blueView, it is posted on the University Calendar found on Drake's home web page, and he will be sending a message to all faculty via email.

The meeting closed at 4:42 p.m.

Secretary, Nancy Geiger