

The regular meeting of the 2008-2009 Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by President Sanders. The following senators were present for all or part of the meeting: Alexander, Chesnut, Cramer, DeWitt, Dore, Gilbert, Houle, McCrickerd, Nelson, Parsa, Reincke, Sanders, Vitha, Walker

#### President Maxwell Report

President Maxwell announced there continues to be strong belief in the Distinctly Drake capital campaign. It has been decided to close the campaign after seven years rather than after five. He feels that not all is gloom and doom for Drake University as entering first year student deposits are at 859 for Fall 2009. He noted that Vice President Tom Delahunt and staff and faculty have done a good job bringing students to Drake. He indicated that some institutions have reduced their Fall number expectations and are repackaging their financial aid to help boost their enrollment numbers. Drake is not planning on this scenario. President Maxwell indicated that he believes the budget scenario titled 'likely' should prevail at this point for the 2009-2010 year. He reminded the body of the town hall presentation which is scheduled for Monday.

#### Provost Troyer Report

He was pleased to announce that a third student has been granted a Fulbright Scholarship. This is impressive. Also awarded a Fulbright for 09-10 is Karl Schaefer. Provost Troyer indicated that he and the Deans are working to meet the course needs for the next year. The FYS courses are almost staffed. Their discussion recognizes the need to provide the exceptional educational experience which has been promised.

#### President Sanders Report

Senators received the football schedule which is presented for informational purposes. President Sanders indicated that an electronic summary from the Senate Committees will be sent soon to the current and next year's senators. This Friday afternoon will be a reception for Provost Troyer at 3:00 p.m. in Levitt Hall.

The Task Force on the Changing Nature of Faculty Roles is putting a report together which will be presented at the June retreat. The last two Senate seats are being filled by Bill Klipec and Tim Knepper.

#### New Business:

Senators Cravero and Allen moved and seconded **Motion 09-08:**

*Approve Spring Break as March 15-19, 2010*

Without discussion, the motion passed on a voice vote.

Senator Gilbert moved **Motion 09-09** to *acknowledge Provost Troyer*

Many Senators offered to second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business continued with a discussion of materials (Experiential Learning/January session elaborated data and a memo titled the current State of our Discussions both dated May 4, 2009)

presented from the Drake Curriculum Task Force by John Burney, Associate Provost. With proper motion the Senate moved to a committee of the whole.

Mr. Burney was present and addressed the body. He indicated the documents should be considered working drafts. He stressed that the Task Force is still working and the intent of today's presentation was to share the 'sense of the committee's current work' and gain Senate feedback. The ideas are not yet mature and noting the financial situation, the group knows that they need to try to identify the resources needed for any changes. Mr. Burney asked for the Senate's help by raising the questions which must be answered as planning proceeds.

Senator Esposito noted that previous drafts had more specifics concerning the integrated learning seminars. He asked how the course sequencing would happen. Mr. Burney agreed stating that after multiple discussions the language had changed. The desire was to ensure flexibility when they might be offered rather than being prescriptive. He indicated the committee still sees a progression of First Year Seminar (FYS) to Engaged Citizen to integrated seminar, yet they did not want to be restrictive.

Senator Vitha asked if the global issues and ethics is a replacement or not for the current values and ethics AOI. Mr. Burney said that is yet to be discussed. Senator McCrickerd indicated various pieces in this document are possible additions to the curriculum. Once flushed out and put back together there may be multiple (or not) redundancies found. She reminded the group that this effort is being driven by Drake's Mission Statement.

Senator Nelson was concerned where the faculty would be released from to teach the integrated courses. President Maxwell agreed this is an important issue but he asked that the group work to know what is really wanted and then step back to figure out how to fund the project. Mr. Burney asked if the integrated seminar was determined to be valuable to a major then the resources would need to be addressed. Senator Nelson continued that he felt his department is already locked out of participating due to their size and program requirements. Mr. Burney noted that this is true for more than just his area.

Senator Allen asked if this is something which could be a capstone. Mr. Burney replied that it could be a major course and if there is a way for a non major to take the course that would be good, too. Senator Allen indicated that her department has looked at this and likes the problem solving aspect and the effort to bring different disciplines together. She like the idea and would support it being a four or five credit course. Senator Alexander indicated he liked the stated flexibility. Senator Gilbert noted that the effort must be able to be sustained over time. He did not want this effort to simply cannibalize the FYS courses. Senator Allen supported interdisciplinary team taught efforts, but noted that staffing would need to be creatively handled.

Mr. Burney asked for feedback concerning the January Term. Senator Reincke asked how Mr. Burney envisions the January Session working specifically concerning faculty workload and student course load. Mr. Burney indicated the current idea would be that students do not have to take this session. In broad terms, it would be three weeks of the spring term and counted such for faculty and student workload. He acknowledged some overload might happen, yet the strong preference would be for no overload. Senator Reincke thought the January Term had some

benefits yet was concerned that some major courses might only be taught then. Senator Sanders agreed that some restrictions should prevent such exclusivity. Both Senators like the concept and the stated restriction that these would be small classes.

Senator Reincke indicated she has taught such a block of time and liked it. Mr. Burney stated that some administrative changes would need to happen but no resistance has been noted within the current polices. Within student focus groups, the feedback has been excitement!

Senator Nelson thought the January term could be fun. Senator Sanders offered that it could bring flexibility for the faculty. Senator Houle noted that at one time Drake's semester calendar was longer and that there are costs (room and board, staff) associated with adding academic weeks.

Senator Cravero asked what should be considered the primary benefit. Mr. Burney stated it would give a student a chance to study abroad or be involved in a more intense experiential learning project. It would be for individual programs and faculty to think how they would use this term. The whole term could be an integrated learning seminar, suggested Senator Sanders. Senator Nelson asked if the January term would be graded. The reply was yes, that it would be at least a three credit academic offering with serious reflection.

Mr. Burney said he appreciated the Senate's feedback and looks forward to taking the comments to the Task Force then to the UCC. Senator Reincke thanked the Task Force for bringing a useful document to the Senate.

Senator Vitha asked if the committee has come up with how the portfolio would be systematically reviewed as he has a concern that we do not have the resources or expertise for that task presently. Mr. Burney knows that is a piece yet to be worked on yet he believes that as it becomes more integrated into the curriculum, it will be valuable to both the students and the faculty.

With a round of applause to President Art Sanders for his for service, the Senate adjourned at 4:35 p.m.