

The regular meeting of the 2011-2012 Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Vice-President Summerville. The following senators were present for all or part of the meeting: Alexander, Bartschat, Beisser, Chesnut, Clapham, Cramer, Dore, Evans, Frazier, Freeman-Miller, Gilbert, Leroux, Reed, Schaefer, Summerville, Urness, Vitha, and Wrenn

Absent: McCarthy, Nelson, Sanders, Simpson

The January 2012 minutes were accepted.

President Maxwell Report – President Maxwell was not present due to illness.

Interim Provost Wright Report

“The Fall 2012 undergraduate admission picture has two promising indicators to report”, stated Provost Wright. More than 6,000 applications have been received which is a new overall threshold and there have been more tuition deposits made at this point, then the previous two years. She continued her report with a mention that the Planning Council will meet later this week. Ms. Wright indicated that again this year the Office of the Provost will financially assist faculty in making academic regalia purchase. The qualifying faculty are in their first through sixth year of Drake service.

Finally, she thanked those faculty who reported to her various book buyer inquiries. She stated it was good to know that faculty were aware of the Faculty Senate approved ban on faculty accepting sample text books.

Senator Gilbert asked when first year retention numbers would be made available. Rachel Boon, Director of Institutional Research and Nancy Geiger could not quote the number during the meeting. they indicated that these number would be made available to Senate.

President Simpson Report:

Student Senate: Recently an academic advising survey was sent via social media to students. While noting that the survey is optional, the results will be shared with Faculty Senate. The Student Senate has been promoting heavily the J-Term Fair. The Student Senate elections will begin soon.

LMS Cmte: Committee Chair Eric Manley indicated that some surveys and focus groups are happening now. They expect to have recommendations yet this semester. Senator Clapham asked if the committee is getting feedback from students in the classes. The reply was yes and the faculty of instruction are also being asked to give feedback.

J-Term Implementation Task Force – Art Sanders began with presenting a four page handout. He indicated that there are courses yet to be finalized. He also indicated he was pleased with the variety of courses. Also distributed was a draft Request Form. Finally, Mr. Sanders indicated planning continues for the JTerm Fair, to be held on Feb 28th. When asked about communication for advisors, Mr. Sanders indicated there would be a email for all faculty and staff next week. While a Business & Finance portion of the document is not yet complete, Mr. Sanders was encouraged to distribute available information very soon, hopefully yet this week.

It was noted that recent UCC minutes are posted to a folder in the blueView Faculty Senate group.

Also, a Faculty Senate 2012-2013 membership list was distributed. The nomination election will begin soon. The distributed document should indicate that Dan Alexander has one more year of at-large Senator service.

Unfinished Business: None presented

New Business:

Senators Dore and Clapham moved and seconded Motion **12:13**:

Approve the Code of Student Conduct as corrected

Senator Dore stated the version of the Code of Student Conduct (Code) has been approved by the Board of Trustees and then additional work was done on the document. The amended portion of the document was announced by University Counsel Elizabeth Kennedy.

a) Section I. Introduction to the Code, paragraph I, Definitions, item 4.

b) Section III. Procedures for Initiating a Complaint, Investigation and Enforcement; F. Formal Procedures for Investigation and Enforcement Where Suspension or Expulsions may be Warranted, 2.f.

and c) Section V Medical Amnesty Regarding Univeristy Discipline

The corrections a) and b) to the posted version deal with the composition of the appeals panel. Correction c) notes that the Medical Amnesty should be included in the Code.

Senator Dore outlined that the accused student will have an attorney and the process is a bit more formalized. The other change which came from the Board of trustees allows for a member of the public to be appointed when an impartial member of the campus community can not be found.

Senator Dore was asked if she is okay with Code as corrected. She said she was. Ms. Kennedy offered some background from before September 2011. At that time, there was not a restriction to the extent to which a lawyer could participate. The extent of the lawyer participating was discussed between the Senate Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees. The Code currently allows for no direct cross examination but the lawyer may present questions.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

Now the Code will go back to the Board of Trustee in April 2012 for their approval, where the leadership is supportive of the current corrected version.

Senator Gilbert opened the discussion of whether or not there should be a faculty poll concerning Drake possibly instituting plus/minus grading. He suggested a simple agree/disagree question and then allow for remarks. He reminded the body that if a faculty member wanted to retain the whole grade scale, that option would still be available. Senator Clapham wanted to know if there was a specific concern which brought this idea forward. Senator Gilbert indicated that the idea started with

a small group. Senator Summerville indicated that since the item was on the agenda, he has received favorable comments concerning the use of the plus/minus marks.

It was noted that Drake, except the Law School, has had the current grading scale since 1950. The Drake Law School plus/minus grading scale began in 1970. Senators voiced concern that such a scale could hurt an 'A' student and help, perhaps a 'B' level student. It was noted that educational research should be reviewed in conjunction to any campus wide debate. Senate Bartschat offered that he is one who would be interested in a change. He shared that grading can be hard to justify a certain grade being 'equal' to someone else's grade, that is, an high B is currently equal to a mid-or low B grade. Senator Alexander thought a plus/minus system would help the 'A' student. Senator Freeman-Miller noted that many faculty use plus/minus in their daily work yet can not do this for the final mark.

Senator Gilbert indicated he would work towards a faculty survey. No timeframe was given.

The discussion item concerning repeating courses began with Senator Wrenn. He indicated the desire was to know the Senate's opinion of the current policy and whether or not a faculty survey would be appropriate concerning the present policy. He continued that personally he does not like that the lower grade comes out of the gpa calculation and thinks this practice inflates the students gpa. Senator Clapham offered that her department talked about the issue and the department lamented that there is not a limit to how many times a student may retake a course, especially a required course. She would like to see a limit placed on how many times a course is retaken. She stated that grades are not rewards for showing up, the grade should be a description of learning performance. That is a measure of the student's learning.

Senator Chesnut stated she had seen many transcripts where the previous grades display even when not included in that institution's gpa calculation. She replied to a question about professional Pharmacy program admission services, the student needs to report the original grades received. Other speakers agreed that for admission to various graduate programs, the original grade would be included in their consideration. Senator Cramer stated this could be exactly why Drake students have an inflated expectation of their gpa. She wondered if it would be appropriate to have only courses with less than a C to be repeatable. Senator Clapham offered that she was also concerned about students who enter the job market and how their gpa should look to employers. Margie Davidson, Director of Student Records and Academic Information, offered that Drake's XX in place of the lower grade is a display choice. Senator Bartschat stated that an XX could be a disservice. If, for example, a student earned a 'C' and that was replaced by an XX, a graduate or professional school could assume that was an 'F'. Several Senators expressed concerns that if there were grade level cutoffs, there could be student 'game playing' towards earning a lower grade so that the student could retake the course.

Senator Schaefer summarized the discussion should hinge on the number of times a course may be taken and the transcript representation. Senator Chesnut indicated that her unit has a limit of three chances for their required courses. Provost Wright reminded the body that with each course occurrence there is tuition charged and a seat taken.

Senator Evans referred to the 'W' mark on a transcript. He did not see it as detrimental. Senator Chesnut indicated that some institutions use a WP for Withdrew/Passing or a W/F for Withdrew/Failing. Senator Beisser indicated that within teacher education, a 'D' or an 'F' will keep a student from progressing. Student Senator Amanda Laurent was asked her opinion. She did not wish to speak for all students, yet personally would support a limit on course retakes. She also indicated some willingness to having the previous grade displaying after a course retake.

Senator Summerville indicated that the topic would go back to Executive Committee and at that level a proposal will be developed for consideration. He summarized the discussion points as: a) number of times to retake a course, b) how the lower grade is displayed and c) how the gpa calculation would be handled.

Senator Evans asked the group why might there be so few comments to the web postings of the Planning Council. Senator Summerville indicated that one question in the Planning Council is how to increase community participation and support. He acknowledged that the online comments have not gotten much traffic. Senator Alexander agreed that there is Planning Council conversation about wanting faculty input.

Senator Schaefer asked to have consideration of a non-agenda item: the granting of Emerita faculty status for Jan Marston. Provost Wright gave some background information. The request has support from Ms. Marston's department (World Languages and Culture) and the Arts & Sciences Council.

Senators Evans and Chesnut moved and seconded motion **12.14**:

To grant Emerita Faculty status to Jan Marston

In response to a question it was clarified that Faculty Senate action is not frequently used to bestow Emeritus status.

With a voice vote, the motion passed

The meeting ended at 4:40 p.m. Secretary Nancy Geiger