

The regular meeting of the 2010-2011 Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by President Bartschat. The following senators were present for all or part of the meeting: Bartschat, Courard-Hauri, Cramer, Dore, Esposito, Evans, Fairbairn (Gillespie), Freeman-Miller, Klipec, Koch, Lyons, Nelson, Reed, Saylor, Schneider, Simpson, Wrenn, and Wright

Absent: Reincke, Vandegrift, Younger

Upon proper motion and vote, December 2010 minutes were accepted.

President Maxwell and Provost Renner were not present due to being away from campus on University business.

President Bartschat Report

President Bartschat indicated that Catherine Gillespie is present today for Shelley Fairbairn, School of Education Senator. Susan Fink, All Staff Council President was recognized. She announced that there will be a new Staff Service Day option offered soon.

New Business

Senators Simpson and Schneider moved and seconded motion **11-15:**

Create a three-week January Session

In order to provide all students with the flexibility to engage in the integrative and experiential learning called for by the Drake Mission, Drake University has instituted a January Session as part of each Spring semester. Within this session students have the opportunity to participate in a three or four credit academic or experiential course that permits study or service learning away from campus, independent research with a faculty member, or intensive focus on a significant topic. Students are required to enroll in a minimum of one January-session during their career at Drake, but may enroll in additional January-sessions according to their own academic planning and consultation with their academic advisers.

Senator Klipec indicated he liked the idea but had some of the same concerns which were reflected in survey especially the mandatory aspect of the proposal. Two other main concerns for him was the issue of faculty compensation and the overall implementation. Senator Klipec referenced the survey comments noting that several faculty would have answered differently if the proposal was not mandatory for students.

Senators Klipec moved and Evans seconded an amendment to change the final sentence by deleting several words:

~~Students are required to enroll in a minimum of one January session during their career at Drake, but may enroll in additional January-sessions according to their own academic planning and consultation with their academic advisers.~~

Senator Courard-Hauri indicated his frustration with the entire Curriculum Revision process at this point. He worried about the speed at which decisions are being made and the impacts not being fully known. He shared his concern that the Senate should look at why this is being presented as mandatory and not be too casual about making changes. Senator Cramer echoed Courard-Hauri's concerns. Her example was the need to build a set of course offerings without knowing the demand for those courses. Ms. Gillespie indicated she had talked with the School of Education faculty and they were concerned about implementation. There would be so many nuts and bolts tasks and felt it has not been fully communicated. Senator Saylor shared that UCC (University Curriculum Committee) did talk about the scheduling issue. It was a concern that it could go the other way when more students want to participate in the experience without course offerings available. Senator Wright agreed that UCC had been concerned about several issues including implementation, yet he has been an advocate and has faith that we can make it work. He sees the benefits for this new calendar and hoped Senate would look to the broadest possible impacts.

Senator Klipec expressed concern that a three week experience would not be enough for some programs including his own department. Senator Simpson asked that if the motivation was to not waste time, then a solution would be to move the spring semester forward a week. She continued by expressing her concern with adding this workload when there is a current stress of staffing the FYS and Engaged Citizen courses. She references the J-term report which stated that 50 courses would be required, if the session was mandatory. Senator Courard-Hauri shared his own knowledge of setting up study away trips which may or may not actually happen based on student enrollment. He has personal willingness to teach in the J-Term, yet would have concerns about the non-mandatory nature of the session and student enrollment. Senator Lyons expressed concern about the funding for this proposal stating that she did not understand where the funds would come from to match the costs needed to create and sustain quality experiences especially if the mandatory nature was removed.

Previous question on the amendment was called and failed.

Senator Esposito expressed a concern about the impact the JTerm would have on summer course enrollments. Senator Evans expressed concerns about how the Spring semester would be impacted. President Bartschat reminded the body that the administration's job is to make it work and that perhaps the Senate is too worried about the details. Several Senators commented that they would be impacted as they or whole disciplines would need to concern themselves with what content would need to be eliminated from the course when one week is taken out of each of the fall and spring semesters. Senator Dore clarified that the ABA has calendar requirements thus this motion does not include the Law School. Senator Saylor agreed that UCC had seen this as an undergraduate issue.

Senator Wrenn indicated he was opposed to making the J-Term mandatory. He shared that he was puzzled by the thought that unless it mandatory it will not work. When asked, Senator Wrenn indicated

he did see this proposal applying to the Pharmacy programs. He further indicated that within his unit the concern is about the shortening of the terms. They would have to teach faster.

Several Senators commented on the requirement of three or four credits wondering if other credit hour offerings would be acceptable, such as one or two credits. It was noted that most travel seminars are six credit hours. Deputy Provost Sue Wright cautioned the body that the credit hour rules will be changing based on Federal government guidelines.

The amendment passed (13 to 4).

Several Senators expressed concerns about faculty workload and compensation issues. Senator Esposito felt the matters were left very 'gray' and thus he was uncomfortable voting on the topic. He acknowledged that international experiences are important and yet expressed concern about whether this was fiscally possible. Senator Simpson believed the academic integrity and quality issues remained a major concern for her. The use of adjuncts is rising and stated that Drake's reputation for academic rigor was not built on adjuncts.

Senator Schneider believed he could support the motion since it was no longer mandatory. He wondered if the course offerings could be pursued in a preliminary fashion as the implementation received though consideration. He noted there is a degree of support for the idea and now Senate is dealing with the decision even though there are unanswered questions.

Senator Esposito agreed that there are supporters yet he did not wish to leave to chance the workload issues. Director of Student Records Margie Davidson added a piece of information to the discussion concerning scheduling. She noted that this motion would open the academic calendar up for courses to be held during a time period in which courses currently are not allowed.

Senator Klipec agreed with Esposito and wondered what is driving the idea. He asked if what Senate is being asked to do is to meet the Mission Statement and expectations and yet perhaps those documents should be reviewed. He asked if each unit should articulate how the mission expectation is met in their program. Senator Esposito felt a 15 week experience is better than a three week and Drake should be channeling energy and resources into 15 week experiences. He stated the three week courses cheapen the degree. Senator Cramer believed that an experience can be rigorous within a three week design. She appreciated Ms. Davidson's remarks as there are educational opportunities to be had in early January which is currently outside Drake calendar.

Senator Nelson expressed that not all three or four credit courses could be squashed into three weeks. He indicated he was not clear what courses would be offered and whether these would be within the major or not. He shared an example of what if the course was a science course for non-majors and yet faculty compensation would need to be handled as well all the major courses. He did not yet fully believe he was convinced this was explained.

Senator Klipec again stated he would like departments to discuss how they might pursue this session and handle the shortened semesters.

With proper motion and vote, previous question on the motion as amended failed.

With proper motion and vote, the motion as amended was tabled.

With a motion and vote, the Faculty Senate closed at 4:56 p.m.