

The regular meeting of the 2005-2006 Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by President Matt Esposito. The following senators were present for all or part of the meeting. Alexander, Cairns, Dore, Esposito, Gilbert, Gillespie, Larson, Morrow, Nelson, Pandit, Reed, Reincke, Simpson, Tice, Wade  
Absent: Bartschat, Courard-Hauri, Freeman-Miller, Lyons, Martin, Sanders

The September 2005 minutes were amended and accepted. The amendment to the minutes was to include language which noted that Senator Gilbert's amendment to motion 06-02 was withdrawn.

Secretary's Note: Copies of the Intercollegiate Athletic Council's approved athletic schedules were distributed to Senators.

#### President Maxwell's Report

- The recent Board of Trustees meeting went well. The Vision 2025 document has brought about good discussion amongst the Board of Trustees including the portion concerning "competitive edge". The current version of the full document will be sent to the Senators.
- The Drake stadium renovation project has received a State of Iowa Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) \$1 million grant. President Maxwell complimented Athletic Director David Blank for his efforts to secure the monies. The monies will be used to build a building at the northwest corner of the stadium. There will need to be additional private funds raised to fulfill the grant, but he expects this to be possible.
- President Maxwell expressed his concern about campus security and safety. He noted that even though statistically Des Moines is a safe place, he senses a growing level of anxiety on this topic. He will be working with the Senior Advisory Council and other groups to possibly bring this topic to a campus forum in the near future.

Senator Simpson asked if there was a Vision Document for 2010. President Maxwell indicated that there is and that he will make sure it is available on the web. The document presents attributes of what Drake aspires to be.

Senator Tice asked if the additional building at the stadium is expected to be ready for the 2006 Drake Relays. President Maxwell indicated that it is expected to be completed by that deadline.

#### Provost Troyer's Report

- Following the practice started during the Spring 2005 semester, he hosted a Board of Trustee luncheon event with faculty and two students of their choosing. It was a success. This year there will be themes at each luncheon. For September, the theme was the First Year Seminar experience. January will be an International theme and April will be an undergraduate research display event.
- The Provost shared his growing concern relative to some current, pending federal legislation. There is such an enormous amount of reporting needs which might be made on the institution that perhaps three additional staff persons would be needed to comply. He gave another example involving a proposed mandate of transfer credit acceptance. There are tremendous changes coming but there are not of our doing.

Senator Reincke asked if he had a sense of what was driving these changes. The Provost indicated that this may be a response to complaints from their constituents and an example of government intrusion. The President indicated that there is a great lobbying effort from the 'for-profit' organizations. He noted there is a national commission which has been appointed to look at higher education. He referenced the

deep seated public mistrust of what we do and who we are. President Maxwell also noted that there is a lobbying effort underway among upper administration officials from around the nation, which he felt was serving well the message of Higher Education.

Senator Alexander asked if there a sense of how the information gathered might be used. Provost Troyer indicated that that element has not been spelled out. Senator Pandit wondered if this was the beginning of the No Child Left Behind legislation for colleges. The Provost indicated that publicly the commission has said this is not the case, but it may be too early to tell.

#### President Esposito's Report

-- President Esposito noted that Vice President Payseur indicated at the recent budget town meetings that Drake had met or exceeded all goals for 2005. He remembers that approximately seven years ago, Drake was in a state of major indebtedness. Her words at the meeting labeled the budget fragile but good when allowances for optimism are added.

-- He encouraged the Faculty Senate to seriously consider participating in the Drake Annual Fund. The dollar amount is not so much the factor as the participation rate of employees. This statistic is important to those outside the institution. He concluded by stating that the Annual Fund is a good cause, because it is our cause and he requested that Senators mention the efforts to others.

--Student Dan Sadowski of the Campus Advancement Committee and a small group are forming a panel to discuss ways to foster faculty and student interaction outside the classroom. The event will be Thursday, December 1 at 3:30 p.m. The students desire to have important faculty input. He noted that the effort is starting small, but there is hope that it grows over the years. Mr. Sadowski spoke to the body requesting suggestions and participation in this brainstorming session. Provost Troyer has indicated that there will be representation from the Dean's Council.

Mr. Sadowski and President Esposito offered an invitation to the faculty to join in the Bulldog Breaks. These are social programs to facilitate interaction between faculty and students. It is a pilot program where juice and coffee are offered during a week day mid-morning. The next event is October 25<sup>th</sup> during Student Senate Week.

--President Esposito ended with a reminder that registration for the Spring 2006 semester will begin soon. He requested that any comments, positive and negative, be sent to him or other Senate Executive members.

Old Business: none presented

#### New Business:

President Esposito indicated that the recent Board of Trustees meeting did not include a session of the Building and Grounds committee. Rachel Caufield's report from Student Life is yet to come to the Senate. All other faculty representative reports concerning the Board committees have been sent to the Senators already. He asked for comments from the body and none were presented.

Senator Gilbert was recognized and spoke as the University Benefits Committee chair. Although it is early in the process and Humana runs on a different calendar than the previous retiree benefit plan, the rates are in and those rates are lower from previous years.

President Esposito then led the Faculty Senate in a preliminary discussion of the Faculty Manual. The Senate will not be voting on any section nor approving the document. This is to be a collective review by

the Senate, an examination of the document as a whole. The document is a compilation of existing policies and procedures for academics and faculty.

Associate Provost Sue Wright joined the Senate as she has spent time updating the Faculty Manual and moving the entire document to the web. The project was given to her by Provost Troyer. Ms. Wright indicated that she had regrouped sections, reworked many out of date procedures, altered position titles as needed and added many web links. In some instances, entire sections were pulled out and a web link was inserted. The section concerning human resource issues was offered as an example of a section which is now heavily referenced to the existing Human Resource web site rather than duplicating entire policies and procedures. She did not change any policy wordings.

The body discussed how the review should proceed. There was clarification offered that if the review finds a particular policy which might be changed, then depending on the source of that policy, that review would be started at either the Senate committee level or other governing body. It was noted that each academic unit has their own faculty manual. Provost Troyer indicated these documents have different purposes from the Faculty Manual. The College/School documents should contain the unit governance items which are not appropriate for the Faculty Manual. He continued by noting that in recent years various offices, departments and faculty have been using different versions (1980, 1992, 1997) of the Faculty Manual and this has resulted in undue concerns. The desire is to have a current, accessible web version. He asked that during the review there is thought given to whether there are further additions to be made. Senator Gilbert applauded the effort to have the document on the web and also cautioned that each link needs to be checked that it up to date and active.

President Esposito indicated he would have the Senate Executive Committee do some review and report back to the Senate and that the November meeting will also have Senate discussion time for the Faculty Manual.

The request was made for any Senator who finds formatting or typos in the web version of the Faculty Manual to send those directly to Sue Wright.

The body adjourned at 4:45 p.m. Secretary, Nancy Geiger