

Minutes of the Meeting of 7 December, 1999

Faculty Senate 1999-2000

Full Assembly: Friday, December 12, 1999

Present: Gans, Susan (proxy for Kerr); Yorges, Stefani; Coffey, Darla Spence; Lyons, Glenn; Berger, Helen; Teutsch, Chris; Andrews, Tom; Zhang, Naijian; Corbett, Idna; Patwell, Martin; Glidden, Peter; Haggard, Cynthia (proxy for Welsh); Johnson, Deidre; Stuart, Elena; Broderick, Patricia; Bloom, Arvid J.; Ray, Judith D.; Volkwein, Karin (proxy for Smith); Emmons, Paul; Ressler, Joel (proxy for Goodson); Garrett, Robin; Schnell, Frauke; van Liew, Maria; Swain, Dick; Fry, Frank.

Meeting was called to order by President Garrett at 3:20 PM.

I. Networking, informal connecting, schmoozing

II. Announcements

- President Garrett spoke with SGA president regarding student reactions/concerns about contract negotiations. Dissemination of facts was good, dissemination of non-facts was not good, discussions after class were good, during class not good, and faculty polemics were not good.
- Senator Patwell solicited letters to local representatives and state governor for appropriations requests.
- President Garrett presented tentative spring semester meeting schedule: two Friday and one Tuesday meetings.

III. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes was made by Senator Ray, and seconded by Senator Fry. Minutes were approved as submitted.

IV. University Festival: Ressler, Ozelis, Schmidt

- President Garrett voices senate concern over feedback process in this and prior festivals, faculty involvement, and small group participation. Specifically, the senate was concerned with being more than a receiving body for advertisements for the festival, and wanted to participate more in discussion with Festival Committee members who come to senate meetings.
- Joel Ressler summarized the problematic history of University Festival, and the steps taken this year to correct some problems of the past. The theme for this year's festival was decided in committee, and outside speakers (by consensus of committee and faculty providing feedback) were asked to participate. The Festival Committee labored under a lack of feedback from faculty outside of the committee (though the majority of the committee was faculty), a lack of funds, and a union directive asking faculty not to participate during negotiations.

- In response to senate concerns, Karen Schmidt indicated that faculty from Health participated in this year's festival, and suggested that somebody from the senate join the Festival Committee to act as a liaison.
- Various senators expressed concern that the Festival Committee was not proactive enough in seeking faculty input, that the program was not interesting or controversial in any way, and that students didn't want to be a part of it. Partial responsibility for this was placed on Madeline Adler by committee members. Student feedback survey was administered by Diane Devestern.
- Joel Ressler indicates that there should be a university-wide discussion about whether the festival should continue, whether day should be changed, etc.
- Committee suggests that there is already an interest in outside speakers and faculty and student presentations; we should work within the existing festival to bring this to campus. The number of students attending this year was less than five percent of student body, though some presentations were very well attended.
- There are updates published on the web and Town Hall regarding upcoming meetings and information relevant to the 2000 Festival.
- This year will be a Y2K celebration: "Where We Have Been and Where We are Going". Senator Schnell suggests that this is rather broad. Karen Schmidt thinks this will encourage topics with broad appeal.
- Senate suggestions:
 - Solicit nominations from students and faculty to find faculty at other universities as speakers for festival
 - Hold faculty responsible for student participation
 - Involve at least one member of each department in presentations
 - Set up debate format on topics of relevance
 - Set interdisciplinary perspectives on an issue of interest.
- Some discussion of potential new calendars, including "fall break", and how festival might fit into new formats. Discussion of how festival attendance reflects variable attendance at campus events in general.

V. Adjournment Senator Lyons moves to adjourn, and Senator Gans seconds.

Meeting adjourned at 5 PM.