

March 2002

Minutes March 25, 2002

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

1. The adjourned meeting of the University Senate of Monday, March 25, 2002 was called to order at 4:05p.m. in the Merlin Bishop Center, Room 7 by the moderator, Mr. Halvorson.
2. It was explained that the Senate was discussing the two-page substitute amendment of Mr. English as amended. This amendment as amended includes the following paragraph:

Under part Two Content Areas, add a fourth group:

“Group Four: Diversity and Multiculturalism. Six Credits. Six credits must be taken from a list of courses that will be designated by the letter “D”. At least three credits shall address issues of diversity [and] and/or multiculturalism outside of the United States. The GEOC shall approve course proposals from the various schools and colleges to be included in this list. Of these six credits, three may be taken simultaneously with a three-credit course from Group One or Group Two. Thus one course may count for both Group Four and either Group One or Group Two. No more than one course or three credits may count toward the requirement for Group Four and Group One or Group Two in this way. The remaining three credits must be take from a selection of courses that while might individually count for different groups may not be counted toward two groups simultaneously.”

Under Item No.1 Multiculturalism and Diversity, on page 8, substitute the following for paragraph one:

“First, in this increasingly interconnected world, our students must be able to understand, appreciate, and function in cultures other than their own, whether ‘their own’ is defined on a local, regional, national, or continental basis. Because of the importance of diversity to the University of Connecticut, diversity or multiculturalism should not be forced into some areas of scientific or quantitative based subjects.”

The [and] was changed to and/or. See below

3. The discussion was interrupted as Mr. Austin arrived and was given the floor. Mr. Austin said that he supported the diversity proposal. He said that the Taylor committee’s report was still in draft form. Mr. Austin supports many of the report’s recommendations, but has noticed a few problem areas, for example, proposed policies dealing with the student newspaper. The report also made recommendations about the curriculum, which is the province of the Senate.

4. It was moved and seconded that the following statement be added to the English proposed amendment:

In approving courses for the GER, the GEOC will take into account the President's policy on anti-discrimination paying particular attention to the groups specified in that policy.

The motion was passed.

5. Discussion returned to the substitute amendment. There was a question about the study of ethics and bias in the GER. Mr. English said that the GER addressed not only groups, but also racism and policies that may be biased, for example, scientific funding related to males and females. Ms. Roberts said that disability is not listed among the mandated areas and needs to be. Mr. English said he was comfortable with these ideas. Ms. Bridges said that sexual orientation needs to be included.

6. Ms. Roberts moved that the motion be amended to read

“ Focusing on diverse ethnic, religious, cultural, and gender groupings, from inside and outside the United States, as well as issues of ethics, bias, sexual orientation, and disabilities.”

The amendment was seconded.

7. Without dissent the wording of the English substitute amendment was changed from “and” to “and/or” as underlined in Item 2.

The substitute amendment was passed.

8. Mr. Schaefer moved the CLAS Amendment to the proposal for General Education Requirements regarding History and Philosophy that was presented and tabled at the meeting of March 11, 2000. He moved

“that the text in Part II, Section 4, ‘Other operating principles’, sections c and d, page 9: be

c. No more than one course (with exception of one-credit performance courses) from any department or program may be counted toward the GER. In Group One, one of the courses must be a course in philosophical or ethical analysis (broadly construed to include courses from several departments). In Group Two, one of the courses must be a course in history with broad chronological and geographical coverage (likewise broadly construed).

d. Content area courses may be counted toward the major.”

01/02 - 46

There was much discussion on both sides of the issue. While many supported the study of history, some believed that the motion restricted other equally appropriate choices. There was also concern about the possible privileging of specific departments. Some believed that ethics was often taught across their curriculum, although no one specific course would meet the guidelines. The supporters said that historical and philosophical thinking had a unique place in the education of students. Promotion of a sense of past and critical thinking about ethical issues are particularly important.

9. Mr. Stave moved and it was seconded to amend the amendment by changing section c. to

“c. No more than one course (with the exception of one-credit performance classes) from any department or program may be counted toward the GER. [In Group One] One of the GER courses must be a course in philosophical or ethical analysis (broadly construed to include courses from several departments) [. In Group Two] and one of the courses must be a course in history with broad chronological and geographical coverage (likewise broadly construed).”

Deletions are in brackets.

Mr. Stave said that he wanted to work within the GER. Ms. Bridges said the amendment was not consistent. Mr. DeWolf complained that the structure was getting very complicated. The classification is overwhelming.

The motion to amend the amendment passed 26 – 22

10. Discussion turned to the amended amendment. In the discussion those opposed said that many types of knowledge are important. Supporters said that some fields are more broadly based and that the amendment supported education rather than training.

It was moved and seconded to close debate. The motion to close debate passed.

The amendment failed 14 – 30.

11. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Uwe Koehn
Secretary of the Senate

The following members and alternates were absent from the March 25, 2002 meeting:

Alissi, Albert	Allenby, Edward	Allinson, Derek
Anderson, Thomas	Aronson, Lorraine	Beliveau, Barbara
Bowman, Larry	Bramble, Pamela	Bravo-Ureta, Boris
Brown, Scott	Bushmich, Sandra	Chow, Karen
Cromley, Ellen	Currier, Danielle	Dreyfuss, Dale
Faustman, L. Cameron	Goodwin, Paul	Hanson, Betty
Hart, Ian	Herzberger, David	Hightower, Larry
Jain, Faquir	Kelly, Judith	Kendall, Debra
Kennedy, Scott	Kobulnicky, Paul	Miller, Stuart
Miniutti, Peter	Paul, Jeremy	Petersen, John
Pickering, Samuel	Purzycki, Jason	Saternow, Timothy
Scalora, Salvatore	Schwarzenbach, Bradley	Singha, Suman
Spiggle, Susan	Strausbaugh, Linda	Sykes, Jennifer
Terry, Thomas	Thorson, Robert	Triponey, Vicky
Usher, Kathleen	Wagner, David	Wang, Tixiang
Wood, David	Young, Colin	