

October 2005

## Minutes October 10, 2005

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE**  
**October 10, 2005**

1. Senator Spiggle officially called the regular meeting of the University Senate of October 10, 2005 to order at 4:04 p.m. in Room 7 of the Bishop Center.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Senator Spiggle presented the minutes from the regular meeting of September 12, 2005 for review.

The minutes were approved without modification.

3. Chief Financial Officer Bruce DeTora presented the Report of the Vice President and Chief Financial Officer on the Budget.

(See Attachment #5)

The first topic was the fiscal report for FY2005 (unaudited). His comments focused on explaining the differences between the budgeted and actual amounts for FY2005. Then Chief Financial Officer DeTora discussed the 2006 spending plan. Technically, the University has approved a deficit budget for FY2006. There are also some unspent equipment funds rolled over from FY2005. One issue this year is how faculty start-ups will be funded, since the amount available in the equipment fund may not be sufficient. State support for FY2006 is very close to the requested amount (closer than in past years); nevertheless, there is a deficit of \$2 million that will need to be made up from other sources. The University Cogeneration plant is scheduled to go into service this month, which will impact energy expenditures. In the short term, the University will have to pay for plant construction; in the long term, the plant should result in savings on energy expenditures. Additional funds have been made permanent for undergraduate course offerings, but there were not many other new initiatives. Library acquisitions previously funded by UConn2000 are being gradually transferred to the operating fund.

CFO DeTora addressed questions from the Senate about the specifics of the FY2006 equipment budget, recovery of the \$15 million spent on bringing residence halls up to code, how the plant fund would be replenished, especially if the \$15 million is not recovered, and the increased allocation for course coverage.

4. Provost Nicholls presented a verbal Report of the Provost on Capital Projects and Master Planning Efforts.

Provost Nicholls discussed 21<sup>st</sup> Century UConn. Much of this information will appear in an upcoming article in The Advance. For Storrs and the regional campuses, 43 specific projects have been identified. No project may be added or removed, but the scope of projects may be modified. The University also has flexibility in the time line, so long as general budgetary restrictions are adhered to. The five largest projects are deferred maintenance, equipment, library and telecommunications, Arjona/Monteith, Torrey Life Sciences renovation, and residential life. Three major projects (>\$10 million) are scheduled for completion before 2011: Arjona/Monteith, Fine Arts, and Torrey Life Sciences.

Provost Nicholls has identified several challenges in the current plan:

- Arjona/Monteith renovations will be difficult to complete within the current budget given the many needs the replacement building is expected to serve.
- Another major concern is developing a balanced budget for the entire 10 years of the program.
- The University needs to develop transparent guidelines for space (for faculty, classrooms, laboratories, shared space).

Provost Nicholls prioritized three major building projects:

- Arjona/Monteith renovation/replacement
- Torrey Life Sciences renovation/replacement
- Fine Arts complex.

A revised phasing outline is being prepared with the target of getting Board of Trustees approval in winter, 2006.

Provost Nicholls will form a new committee, the Capital Project Advisory Committee, which will give broad input from all participants in the university committee, and will serve functions previously served by the Master Planning Committee.

Provost Nicholls took questions from members of the Senate. Senator Zirakzadeh inquired how building occupants will be incorporated into the planning process and what use will be made of the information already collected by the current Arjona/Monteith Committee? Senator DeWolf expressed concern about the tendency to build low-bid buildings, when the Arjona/Monteith buildings will be a core campus building. Provost Nicholls acknowledged these concerns and stated all previously collected information will be taken under consideration.

5. Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith, presented the Semi-Annual Report of the Building & Grounds Committee.

(See Attachment #6)

COO Flaherty-Goldsmith briefly discussed changes made to the Buildings and Grounds Committee that are intended to streamline operations.

Deferred maintenance is supposed to be used to correct problems in existing buildings. It may also be used to make additions to new buildings. The use of deferred maintenance funds for other purposes will not continue. A study of deferred maintenance needs at the Storrs and branch campuses has been commissioned in order to identify the most pressing needs. Under the new protocol, projects go to the BOT at three stages: at planning (with 10% contingency required), at design (8% contingency funds required), and when ready to begin construction (5% contingency funds required).

Projects currently under way are the roof replacement in Monteith (with an expected life of 10 years, because of plans to replace the building) and completion of the Natural History Museum.

Projects in the design phase include the renovation of Lakeside Apartments, closure of the landfill, completion of North Hillside Rd. (which recently received an increased allocation from the

Federal Government), repair of parking garages at the Stamford campus. The West Hartford parking lot project is on hold at their request.

6. Dr. Michael Gerald, Chair presented the Report of the Provost's ad hoc Committee to Study Issues of Retired Faculty & Staff.

(See Attachment #7)

Senator Marsden inquired about the continuation of tuition waivers for the children of emeritus faculty. Senator Sanner identified this as a collective bargaining issue. Senator Majumdar inquired about the current status of the ability of faculty to submit proposals for extramural funding. Senator Anderson responded that emeritus faculty are allowed to do this if their department gives them an appropriate title (e.g., senior scientist).

Provost Nicholls thanked the committee for the report, and stated the committee's recommendations are being discussed (including asking about policies at peer institutions). Human Resources will update their web page to reflect the benefits available to retirees. Provost Nicholls hopes to have specific recommendations by spring.

7. Senator Kendall presented the Report of the Senate Executive Committee.

(See Attachment #8)

8. Senator Jeffers presented the Report of the Curricula and Courses Committee.

(See Attachment #9)

I. New 100s level courses.

**A. The committee recommends approval of the following new 100-level courses:**

1. ECE 101 Electrical & Computer Engr Tools  
Proposed Catalog Copy: Second semester. One Credit. An introduction to the modern computer tools used for circuit analysis, signal and system analysis, control, and data acquisition.
2. ECE 110 Microcontroller Application in Engineering  
Proposed Catalog Copy: Second semester. Three credits. Introduction to microcontroller-based design. Assembly language programming. Design projects for microcontroller applications in engineering.

**The motion carried.**

II. New 200s level course.

**A. The committee recommends approval of the following new 200-level courses:**

1. COGS 201: Foundations of Cognitive Science  
Proposed Catalog Copy: Either semester. Three credits. Prerequisite: PSYC 132 or PHIL 101 or LING 101. Open to sophomores.  
Origins of and current developments in the scientific study of the mind-brain. Topics include: computational theories of mind, artificial and natural intelligence, cognitive neuroscience and the mind/body problem, embodied and distributed cognition, neural networks, self-organizing cognitive systems, learning and innateness.

**The motion carried.**

**B. The committee recommends the following changes for existing 200-level courses:**

1. MCB 218 Heredity and Society – change in requirements  
Existing Cat. Copy: Three credits. Open to sophomores or higher. May not be counted toward the biology major. The principles of heredity and their implications for society.

Proposed Catalog Copy: Three credits. Open to sophomores or higher. May not be counted toward the biology sciences major, MCB majors, or the MCB minor. The principles of heredity and their implications for society.

Senator Domoff asked why the course was not available for credit in the MCB major. Senator Strausbaugh, who teaches the class, clarified that it was intended as a non-majors course addressing current issues in genetics and society.

After discussion, **the motion carried.**

III. New General Education courses forwarded from GEOC  
**The Curricula & Courses Committee moves that the University Senate approve the following courses for the General Education Curriculum:**

A. Courses for consideration in Content Area 4 (Diversity & Multiculturalism):

1. MAY NOT be used to satisfy the “International” requirement:
 

ENGL 274	Asian American Literature
PSYC 246W	Psychology of Women
ENGL 165/ INTD 165	Introduction to American Studies
  
2. MAY be used to satisfy the “International” requirement:
 

ANTH 280W/HRTS 280W	Human Rights in Democratizing Countries
INTD 1XXW	Ports of Passage
ENGL 120	Major Works of Eastern Literature
FREN 169	Studies in the French-Speaking World

**The motion carried.**

IV. Modification to renumbering:

At the March 2005 meeting the senate approved restrictions on how courses number in the xx80 and xx90 series. The committee received a request to change xx89 to “Undergraduate Research”.

**The committee recommends the following:** In course renumbering change “xx89 Introduction to Research” to “xx89 Undergraduate Research”.

**The motion carried.**

9. Senator DeWolf delivered the Report of the Nominating Committee.

(See Attachment #10)

A. The Nominating Committee moves the following faculty/staff additions to the named committees:

- Laurie Best to Growth & Development as representative of Curricula & Courses
- Gerald Gianutsos to Growth & Development as representative of Student Welfare
- Gaye Tuchman to Growth & Development as representative of Faculty Standards
- Susana Ulloa-Beal to Growth & Development as representative of Enrollment

**The motion carried.**

B. The Nominating Committee moves the following student additions to the named committees:

- Hannah Adams as undergraduate representative to the General Education Oversight Committee
- Peter Chidester as graduate representative to Scholastic Standards
- Andrea Fuhrel as graduate representative to Growth and Development
- Carrie Fyler as graduate representative to Faculty Standards
- Jill Magee as graduate representative to the General Education Oversight Committee
- Andrew Polonsky as graduate representative to University Budget
- Tomfei Teou-Teou as graduate representative to Student Welfare

**The motion carried.**

C. The Nominating Committee moves the following undergraduate deletions to the named committees:

- Vanessa DiPilato as representative to the General Education Oversight Committee
- Ryan Heafy as representative to the General Education Oversight Committee
- Andrew Marone as representative to the Faculty Standards Committee

**The motion carried.**

D. For the information of the Senate, the Undergraduate Student Government has repealed the appointment of Andrew Marone to the University Senate.

10. Unfinished Business – none.

11. New Business – none.

12. There was a motion to adjourn.

The motion was approved by a standing vote of the Senate.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Elizabeth Jockusch  
Senate Secretary

The following members and alternates were absent from the October 10, 2005 meeting:

Anderson, Thomas  
Aronson, Lorraine  
Austin, Philip  
Bansal, Rajeev  
Bergman, Theodore  
Boyer, Mark  
Chambers, Kim  
Clausen, John  
Evanovich, M. Dolan  
Facchinetti, Neil  
Faghri, Amir  
Faustman, L. Cameron  
Franklin, Brinley

Givens, Jean  
Gramling, Lawrence  
Holzworth, R.J.  
Humphreys, Nancy  
Kay, Richard  
Kurland, Michael  
McCarthy, Robert  
Muirhead, Deborah  
Myers, Kathryn  
Ndoye, Abdou  
Ogrean, Tracy  
Olson, Sherri  
Palmer, David

Roe, Shirley  
Sacco, Peter  
Saddlemire, John  
Simmons, Robin  
Smith, Erling  
Sopcak, Amy  
Stwalley, William  
Thorson, Robert  
Vinsonhaler, Charles  
von Munkwitz-Smith, Jeffrey  
Wagner, David