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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE
January 29, 2007

1. Moderator Murphy officially called the regular meeting of the University Senate of January 29, 2007 to order at 4:09 p.m. in Room 7 of the Bishop Center.
2. Approval of Minutes

Moderator Murphy presented the minutes from the regular meeting of December 11, 2006 for review.

The minutes were approved without modification.

3. Report of the Provost

The Provost announced that the accreditation team from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NESAC) is currently on campus conducting our periodic re-accreditation site visit. They will remain here until Wednesday, January 31, 2007. The panel arrived on January 28th and will visit and hold conversations with various University of Connecticut constituencies.

The Provost discussed the new Academic Plan. He recounted that he has been visiting the various schools and colleges (all but Education and Agriculture so far) to discuss the new Academic Plan. The plan is designed to guide our future efforts, assisting us in decision making concerning where we should be making progress and where we should be investing new resources in the future. The plan outlines three broad and large themes addressing efforts at improving the environment, health and human development, and education and workplace development. The plan has been discussed with the Deans Council and the Provost is now ready to disseminate the plan more widely for further discussion among members of the university community. He has asked the Deans to share the draft document with others and to seek comment. One of the pieces of the plan talks about enhancing the global nature of the institution. It speaks of forming associations for research, learning, and outreach with partners from around the world.

The Provost remarked on the progress of the Dubai project. He said that he and representatives from four schools and colleges visited Dubai and met with various leaders in the country. He believes the possibilities would be extensive for us if we were to establish a branch campus in that country. He stated that the Dubai government wants more than just a branch campus; they seek to build a full-fledged research university and are prepared to expend the money to build an entirely new, first rate campus. The University of Connecticut would provide assistance in designing both programs and a campus on which to conduct those programs. He expressed the opinion that while there are many pluses, we still need to be cautious. First we must exert fiscal caution and assume that this should not cost the State of Connecticut anything. Everything would be owned by the Dubai government. UConn would provide services. UConn will charge Dubai for the cost of these services and as it does with all such arrangements, add a overhead fee.

As well, he continued, we have to be careful to maintain our academic standards. The Dubai institution will grant University of Connecticut degrees, so we must ensure the programs are high quality. For example, we must control admission to membership on the faculty. Finally, of course, we must be cautious of the legalities of this arrangement. To this end the university is working closely Attorney General's office. Provost Nicholls reported that he hopes to be able to take a preliminary plan to the Board of Trustees later this year.

Provost Nicholls entertained questions from the floor. Senator Mannheim asked if we have been given assurances that there will be no discrimination by race, religion, or gender in admissions or any other aspect of the program. Provost Nicholls responded affirmatively, saying that this has been a condition of our involvement at every step of the way.

Senator Mannheim then commented on the difficulties with road and pedestrian safety. The Provost replied that the President is preparing a report for the legislature and commented that some of the roads in question are actually not controlled by the university but are rather state maintained and controlled, complicating the processes.

Senator Schultz inquired about the progress 21st Century UConn, particularly the projects slated for this year and next, 2008. He commented that the Board of Trustees will take up some of these capital projects at its June meeting and asked about the decisions that need to be made by the university administration before submitting the spending plans to the Board. Commenting on the general tendency of prices to rise over time, Provost Nicholls reported that the projected costs of projects listed in UConn 21st Century have risen to the extent that they may preclude the completion of all proposed projects from the available funds. So, decisions will have to be made. He mentioned specifically that the Torrey and Gant Projects, and well as the Warehouse project are high on the list for consideration for early completion but no firm decisions have yet been made concerning the budget for these projects. They are still too early in the planning process for more firm decisions concerning funding to be made.

Senator Maurudis raised several more safety issues and pointed out that graduate student council has prepared a list of problem spots on campus. Senator Nicholls requested the list be sent to his office.

4. Senator DeWolf presented the report of the Senate Executive Committee.

(See Attachment #25)

5. The Annual Report on Financial Aid, and Retention and Graduation was presented by M. Dolan Evanovich, Vice Provost of Enrollment Management.

(See Attachment #26)

Senator Mannheim asked what we could do to achieve 100% graduation in 4 years and inquired if the university has the capacity in classes and resources to do that. Vice Provost Evanovich replied that a 100% four year graduation rate is probably both unrealistic and unattainable as a goal. He cited several factors in this, including the idea that the culture has changed and that parents seem to have a less firm expectation that students will take no more than four years to complete an undergraduate degree. They seem more willing to allow their students to avail themselves of a year abroad or to participate in some other program, even if it extends their time to graduation. A more realistic goal might be 95% retention for freshmen moving to their sophomore years. We now graduate 56% in four years; 10 years ago the figure was closer to 44%. Average time to graduation is 4.3 years. (Nationally this is 4.7 years.) Evanovich believes realistically our four-year graduation rate might reach into the 60% range and the six-year rate might rise into the 80% range.

Senator Freake expressed concern about the apparent growing differential between majority and minority students in four-year graduation rates. It seems from this year's data that the gap is widening. Vice Provost Evanovich explained this is most likely an actuality within the normal range of variation. Because the cohort of minority students is very much smaller than the cohort of majority students, their statistics are less stable. Small differences in numbers of the former may cause the differences to appear large when compared to the relative stability of the majority cohort.

Senator Faustman raised issues concerning levels of SAT scores data, asking if the data presented were only Storrs data. Vice President Evanovich affirmed that the reported data were only from students admitted to the Storrs campus and added that it is standard practice across the country to report only main campus data.

6. Senator Moiseff presented the report of the Scholastic Standards Committee.

(See Attachment #27)

Senator Moiseff presented a motion on dual degrees. Senator Boyer explained the Teachers for a New Era program of the Neag School of Education and gave examples of how this mechanism would work in that program if passed. It was indeed an initial request from that program that resulted in the current proposal. He cited the advantages for students in the education school and pointed out that there really is little downside as no major, college, or student is compelled to participate. The dual major is optional for each major.

Senator Jain expressed concern over the notion that one major would be designated as “primary,” and the other “secondary.” He pointed out that not all colleges permit dual majors. The Registrar, Senator von Munkwitz-Smith, reaffirmed that the decision to participate in the program rests with each school or college.

Senator Goldman stated that the Curricula and Courses Committee of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has this proposal on its agenda for its next meeting. As passage of the plan would affect that college deeply she asked the Senate to put off making a decision until CLAS has a chance to respond to the proposal.

Senator Goldman moved that the Senate vote be postponed until after the CLAS Courses and Curricula Committee has discussed the plan. The motion was seconded by Senator Jain.

The motion carried.

Senator Moiseff asked if it would be in order to continue discussion anyway. The Moderator allowed discussion to continue so that it might provide information to the Scholastic Standards Committee.

Senator Mannheim asked if reciprocity would exist between CLAS and NEAG. Would a student in CLAS be able to add a second major in the Neag School? Senator Boyer said he thought not.

Senator Schwab spoke in favor of the proposal. Referring to the concern expressed by Senator Mannheim he pointed out that the Neag School does have a Teacher Certification Program for College Graduates allowing students who have completed a major in another school or college to enter the Neag School in a program that allows them to receive teacher certification.

Senator Broadbent asked what the actual degree document would look like. The answer, provided by Senator von Munkwitz-Smith was that this would not be a dual degree, this would be a single degree with two majors. Only one degree would be on the actual degree certificate.

Senator Croteau, who is Head of the Journalism Department, spoke in favor of the motion, saying that her department has encouraged journalism majors to take a second major or even a dual degree so they also have a content major. This proposed plan would facilitate that.

Senator English reminded the Senate that we should look at this as a revolutionary concept—enhancing the education of teachers. He said it is good public policy.

Senator Goldman asked for clarification concerning what would be on the diploma. Senator von Munkwitz-Smith said that both majors would appear on the transcript and diploma.

Questions were raised concerning advising but no clear understanding of how students will be advised has yet been proposed.

Senator Mannheim suggested that more thought be given to the wording of the diploma.

Senator Kaufman asked if there would be an opportunity to change the wording concerning primary and secondary degree designations, changing them to something more neutral.

A question was raised concerning whether this could be passed only for the School of Education. The reply was that the decision had been made to open it up to all because of the potential benefits to students and the realization that any school, college, or major can decide not to participate.

Dean Schwab pointed out that there is a benefit to the CLAS as well, in that CLAS would now get credit for students that heretofore had been ascribed only to the School of Education.

Senator Mannheim asked if students would need to meet the entrance requirements of both colleges. Senator Moiseff replied that this language was not yet included in the wording of the motion.

7. Senator Moiseff presented the annual report of the Scholastic Standards Committee.
(See Attachment #28)
8. Senator Jeffers presented the report of the Courses and Curricula Committee.
(See Attachment #29)

I. Adding new 100s level course

The Committee recommends approval to add the following courses:

A. BME1XX/CSE1XX/MCB1XX (MCB1401) Honors Core: Computational Molecular Biology

Catalog copy: BME1XX/CSE1XX/MCB1XX (MCB1401) Honors Core: Computational Molecular Biology Either semester. Three credits. Mandoiu, Nelson Introduction to research in computational biology through lectures, computer lab exercises, and mentored research projects. Topics include gene and genome structure, gene regulation, mechanisms of inheritance, biological databases, sequence alignment, motif finding, human genetics, forensic genetics, stem cell development, comparative genomics, early evolution, and modeling complex systems.

The motion carried.

B. MCB1YY (MCB1400) Honors Core: The Genetics Revolution in Contemporary Culture

Catalog copy: MCB1YY (MCB1400) Honors Core: The Genetics Revolution in Contemporary Culture. Second Semester. Three credits. Open only to freshmen and sophomores in the Honors Program. R. O'Neill, M. O'Neill.
Exploration of the use of genetics concepts in popular culture. Topics include genetic analysis, genetic engineering, cloning and DNA forensics as represented in media including

news, film, literature and art. Discussion includes influence on society, attitudes towards science, domestic and foreign policy as well as medical practice and law.

The motion carried.

II. New General Education courses forwarded from GEOC: The Committee recommends approval of the following courses and topics

A. C&C recommends approval of the following course for inclusion in Content Area 1 and Content Area 4:

Non-International
ENGL 174W/ 2274W Disability in American Literature and Culture

The motion carried.

B. C&C recommends approval of the following courses for inclusion in Content Area 1:

GERM 1XXX	Human Rights and German Culture
HIST 1XXX	East Asian History though Essential Hanzi

The motion carried.

C. C&C recommends approval of the following course for inclusion in Content Area 1:

MUSI 191	Music Appreciation (revision of an existing CA1 course)
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III. Rule for Transfer credit under new catalog numbering system

Background:

Currently, transfer courses that are not equated to a specific UConn course (“generic transfer courses”) are assigned a four-digit course number. Each digit of the number has some significance for the degree audit process. For example, a course being transferred in as Latin American History 200 level would be put on the student’s record as HIST 2023 where the 2 is the level and 23 is the topic Latin American; 100 level Organic Chemistry with a lab would be CHEM 1501 where the 1 is the level, the 5 indicates a lab and the 01 is the topic organic. This allows the degree audit system to automatically count the courses appropriately without an exception having to be manually entered in the system, helping students, advisors, and the degree audit staff in the Registrar's Office.

Once we go to the new numbering system, this scheme will have to be re-done to avoid confusion with regular UConn courses. A group of staff from Transfer Admissions, the Registrar's Office, and University Information Technology Services investigated various solutions. We had hoped to be able to use a "T" in front of the number to indicate a generic transfer course. Unfortunately, the degree audit system does not recognize an initial character that is not a number. The only workable solution seems to be to use the previously unassigned 9000-level for these generic transfer courses. They would be coded with five-digit course numbers, with 9 as the initial digit followed by the four digits currently used. HIST 2023, from the example above, would become HIST 92023.

Motion: The Registrar’s Office is permitted to use a five-digit numbering system beginning with the digit 9 to list transfer courses that transfer in as generic courses.

The motion carried.

Note: This is related to Senate Bylaw II.D.1.

9. New Business – none.

10. There was a motion to adjourn.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Miller
Senate Secretary

The following members and alternates were absent from the January 29, 2007 meeting:

Allison, Peter
Aronson, Lorraine
Austin, Philip
Becker, Loftus
Bergman, Theodore
Caira, Janine
Callahan, Thomas
Clausen, John
D'Alleva, Anne
Engel, Gerald
Facchinetti, Neil

Feldman, Barry
Fox, Karla
Franklin, Brinley
Gianutsos, Gerald
Hart, Ian
Hiskes, Anne
Kerr, Kirklyn
Letendre, Joan
Lowe, Charles
Munroe, Donna
Myers, Kathryn

Olson, Sherri
O'Neill, Rachel
Recchio, Thomas
Sanchez, Lisa
Schaefer, Carl
Singha, Suman
Strausbaugh, Linda
Tilton, Robert
Wagner, David
Williams, Michelle
Woods, David