

Note: Please get agenda items for the June 2 Senate meeting to Bege Bowers, English Department, by 10:50 a.m. Friday, May 21. Provide both hard copy and a copy on an IBM-formatted diskette if you want material to appear on the online agenda.

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

May 5, 1999

OVERVIEW:

Major topics presented/discussed: 1999-2000 library budget allocations (p. 2); Student Government resolutions regarding general education (pp. 3, 4-6, Appendix B); philosophies, policies, and procedures for minors under semesters (pp. 2, 3-4, Appendix C).

Actions/Policy Changes:

- (1) The Senate passed a motion to approve the allocations in the 1999-2000 library budget that was attached to the May 5 Senate agenda, p. 5.
- (2) The Senate defeated a motion to change the order of the day and discuss Student Government's resolutions about general education and adding a 14th GER goal.
- (3) The Senate defeated a motion to hold a special meeting of the Senate on May 26 to discuss the students' resolutions. The next meeting of the Senate will be June 2.

CALL TO ORDER:

Jim Morrison, chair of the Academic Senate, called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Minutes of the 7 April 1999 Senate meeting were approved as distributed.

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE / REPORT FROM THE CHAIR: Jim Morrison made the following announcements:

1. The Senate Executive Committee has met a couple of times since the last Senate meeting. Committee-preference sheets have been distributed; people from the colleges of Business, Education, and Fine and Performing Arts, especially, need to volunteer to ensure representation from all colleges on the committees. Encourage colleagues to volunteer. The Executive Committee will meet Wednesday, May 12, to begin making assignments.
2. The Executive Committee has received resolutions from Student Government concerning a change in criteria for general education and the creation of a 14th goal (see Appendix B). The Committee has referred these resolutions to the appropriate committees: first to the General Education Committee, which is to respond as soon as possible (by the June meeting); it must also go to the Academic Standards Committee, since the resolutions involve the addition of a goal.
3. The Executive Committee has been contacted by people on various Q2S committees; questions about policy under semesters have been raised by Records and Admissions. These questions (e.g., when will an I grade automatically turn into an F if not taken care of) will be referred to the Academic Standards Committee. The committee may confer with the provost to see what exceptions to policies can be made so that students are held harmless.

4. The Ohio Faculty Council will meet Friday, May 7, in Columbus. Duane Rost will attend.

OHIO FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT: Duane Rost made the attached report. See Appendix A.

CHARTER & BYLAWS AND ELECTIONS AND BALLOTING COMMITTEES: No reports.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE: Jim Morrison announced that Louise Pavia would give a brief report on minors under semesters and that discussion would be held at the end of the meeting if time permitted.

Pavia began by asking the Senate to acknowledge the contributions of student senator and committee member Brandon Schneider, who has attended every Senate meeting and Academic Standards Committee meeting this year.

She then showed overheads outlining some of the committee's ideas about minors on semesters; see Appendix C. She noted that committee members have not come to a firm definition of the number of credit hours that will constitute a minor; they are looking at policies at other universities. The overheads contained basic philosophy statements and possible policies. See related discussion under New Business.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE: Jim Morrison announced that the report the Programs Committee submitted for the May 5 Senate agenda (agenda pp. 2-3) is being withdrawn. Since the programs listed have not been through the entire circulation and approval process, the approvals are not yet official. The Curriculum Committee and Programs Committee will jointly distribute courses and programs for Q2S; full reports will be housed in the deans' offices. A message will go to each department, noting where those materials are, what they are, and the 10-working-day deadlines for communicating any concerns to the appropriate committee.

Apparently one packet (including the American Studies program) is in deans' offices and should be responded to by May 17.

CURRICULUM, ACADEMIC PLANNING, GENERAL EDUCATION, INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGIES, AND UNIVERSITY OUTREACH COMMITTEES: No reports.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE: Nancy Mosca moved that the Senate approve the proposed 1999-2000 library budget attached to the May 5 agenda, p. 5. Note that it includes a Yankee Book Peddler line. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

ACADEMIC RESEARCH, STUDENT ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, STUDENT ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE, HONORS, AND ACADEMIC EVENTS COMMITTEES: No reports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Paul Stracic moved that we bypass normal procedures and bring the Student Government resolutions referred to in Jim Morrison's Senate Executive Committee report (see Appendix B) directly to the Senate.

Jim Morrison ruled the motion untimely, and discussion followed.

Morrison: The Senate is characterized by a strong committee structure. The Senate approved the creation of a General Education Committee, amended the Charter & Bylaws to accommodate that structure, approved a general education model for the committee to work with, and approved the criteria for various kinds of courses. It seems appropriate that the committee be put to use for the purposes for which it was created. The Executive Committee referred the resolutions to that committee, as it does with other items that fall under the purview of a standing committee.

Student Government President David Myhal: The resolutions should be included in the Senate minutes and distributed as soon as possible. (Student Government provided supporting information on the table at the back of the auditorium.) The appropriate committees should be charged to go forward at an expedient rate. The current Student Government has spent much time on the matter and needs to be heard; we need to have a special meeting if necessary and resolve the matter before summer. Bill Jenkins has spoken with Student Government about general education several times. Students need a voice; this issue affects our future.

Morrison: Student senators have full voting rights on the floor of the Senate and may participate in all aspects of conducting business. The Executive Committee is asking the General Education Committee to make a recommendation by the June meeting, which is only a few weeks away and within the terms of office of the present Student Government.

Paul Stracic moved that we change the order of the day and discuss the students' resolutions about general education. The motion was seconded and defeated.

NEW BUSINESS:

Minors Under Semesters

We returned to the topic of minors under semesters. Louise Pavia noted that the Academic Standards Committee will meet Wednesday, May 12, from 4-6 (Cushwa 3089) to discuss the topic further.

Barbara Brothers: It is not true that everyone must have a minor. Students in professional programs, double majors, etc. do not have to have a minor. The policies proposed by the committee would change rules only for those students who do have to have a minor.

Brothers also noted that interdisciplinary minors do not have to be approved through an ICP process; interdisciplinary minors already exist. Brothers also feels that 50% or more of the minor should be at the upper-division level.

Pavia: The committee felt perhaps everyone should have a minor.

Charles Singler: Which department would define a specific minor: the one offering it, or the one requiring it? The Geology Department would not want another department to define the minor for geology students, for instance.

Allen Hunter: Does the overhead suggest there are three types of minors?

Pavia: These were philosophical statements about a minor, not three types of minors.

Hunter: Would the minor have to be within the department in which the student is majoring?

George McCloud, speaking as a member of the Academic Standards Committee: There is a difference of opinion in the committee on that. Some members (including McCloud) feel there is value in minoring outside the department.

James LaLamie: Currently, many departments encourage students to have a minor outside the major department.

Brothers: Some departments have only one major and thus could not offer a minor in something else.

Kathlynn Feld: If a department requires specific courses in a minor, what would happen with transfer students? Transfers come in with other courses that should be considered.

David Pugh: If 33% of the minor must be in upper-division courses, Social Work could not continue to offer a minor.

Pavia: Our concern was that a minor have "meat and substance."

Tammy King: Requiring minors in professional disciplines would raise graduation requirements in some disciplines far above 124 hours. Also, it would be good for departments offering minors to provide suggestions/guidelines about courses for minors.

Pavia: The committee will continue to consider these things and bring a motion forward.

Morrison: Contact Dr. Pavia and the committee if you have further comments or suggestions.

Student Government Resolutions Regarding General Education

George Neil: Point of information: Who sets meeting times? Can I make a motion to hold a special meeting of the Senate on May 19 to discuss the proposed goal 14 referred to in the resolutions passed by Student Government? (See Appendix B.)

Morrison: You can. That date is reserved for meetings of the faculty association, however. I do not know whether they have a meeting scheduled. The next regular meeting of the Senate will be June 2.

Neil moved that we hold a special meeting of the Senate on May 26 to discuss the students' concerns. The motion was seconded, and discussion followed.

Stracic: This is an extremely important matter. Teaching citizenship is a national movement. It will take a lot of debate to resolve this issue. We have a responsibility to take the time to do so.

Brandon Schneider: If this motion were approved, would the General Education and Academic Standards committees still have jurisdiction to discuss the matter?

Morrison: We would hope the committees would consider the matter and be ready to deal with it at the May 26 meeting (if the motion to have a meeting May 26 carries).

Singler: I would like to see the resolution. Democracy works slowly. We need time for appropriate deliberation. The discussions about the goals were long (well over a year), and there was further discussion about the model beyond that. There were many opportunities for discussion about including citizenship. We should not rush into this. If the issue has merit, the goal can be added whether we resolve the matter this year or carry it over to next year.

Myhal: Although there was a tedious discussion last year, the vote was hardly done. It is not understandable why the Senate would not want to address an issue as important as this, regardless of the time frame. Three weeks is long enough to look over the materials we distributed and be ready to discuss them. This is an important issue to students. Ignoring it sends the wrong message to students. Why can't we come back and discuss this for an hour and a half three weeks from now?

Ed Largent: At least one department, music, has an important department meeting May 26. I wonder whether there would be a quorum.

Bill Jenkins: There have been student representatives on the General Education Committee. Students have had spotty attendance. This particular motion was not brought before the committee. Student Government did not invite me to speak on the issue before the Student Government vote on the resolution. I am not opposed to their bringing this forward, but I would like for us to wait until June to discuss the matter. We need to look at the motions relative to the whole general education package.

McCloud: I am puzzled by all of this. There was ample opportunity during the discussion last year for this to be brought forward. The Senate has a sound deliberative process. Waiting until June will not foreclose debate. It will simply ensure that the discussion takes place within existing guidelines. I call the question.

Stracic: People are ignorant about politics and government. I was here for the entire discussion about general education. At the end, the question was called and the vote was taken very quickly. A discussion of what educated students need to know did not take place. The process may have been democratic, but it was not deliberative. We need to learn from the students here. We should meet in three weeks and have an educated discussion.

Schneider: I request a roll-call vote.

Tom Shipka: I will attend a special meeting if we have it. However, I am confused about the timing. I sat through months of debate, read many documents, and participated in the debate. Some of the people who have raised the issue here missed most of those meetings. I move the previous question.

The motion calling the previous question was seconded. A vote was taken, and the motion calling the question (terminating debate) carried.

Someone questioned whether we still had a quorum. A show of hands indicated that we had not lost a quorum.

Morrison: A request for a roll-call vote has been made. Willingness of 20 or more senators is required to hold a roll-call vote. (A show of hands showed that only 10 senators supported a roll-call vote, so the vote on the motion to have a special meeting was a voice vote.)

By voice vote, the motion to hold a special meeting on May 26 to discuss the Student Government resolutions was defeated. The next regular meeting of the Senate will be June 2.

ADJOURNMENT: We adjourned at 5:10 p.m.