Note: Please get agenda items for the March 5 Senate meeting to Bege Bowers, English Department, by noon on Thursday, February 23.

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES
February 5, 1997

CALL TO ORDER:

Jim Morrison, chair of the Academic Senate, called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Floyd Barger moved that minutes of the 4 December 1996 meeting be approved. Motion was seconded, and minutes were approved as distributed.

CHARTER & BYLAWS COMMITTEE: Lowell Satre noted that the Charter & Bylaws Committee met and elected Ronald Shakloe chair.

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

J. Morrison reported one item on behalf of the Senate Executive Committee:

The program proposals attached to the agenda for the February 5 Senate meeting by the Academic Programs Committee (APC) contained errors in signature and receipt dates. The APC has corrected the errors. (See APC report below.)

FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE CHANCELLOR:

Duane Rost delivered the attached report, focusing on (1) other universities' and Chancellor Haiston's views on semesters vs. quarters and (2) the system for compiling faculty-staff data (see Appendix A).

ELECTIONS & BALLOTING COMMITTEE: No report.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE: Charles Singler brought three items before the Senate.

1. Singler moved

that the upper-division credit-hour requirement be changed from 60 q.h. to 72 q.h., and that all undergraduate bulletin statements and other appropriate university policies be brought into conformity with the policy.

Tom Manaffa seconded the motion, and discussion followed.

Jim Conser: When would the change take effect? Singler: Not until next year, and students currently here would be "grandfathered in." Students may follow the catalog in effect at the time they enter or any catalog thereafter, as long as they are continuously enrolled.

F. Barger: How did the committee arrive at 72? Singler: Some people wanted the number to be 90; 72 seemed to be an acceptable number; since we offer baccalaureate programs, we need to require more than 60 hours at the upper-division level.

F. Barger: Will the additional hours affect any existing programs? Singler: Sure. But although some students don't take more than the current 60-hour minimum, most students already take more; many take 72 or more upper-division hours.

Dennis Henneman: The change would limit just the options students have for elective hours? Singler: I don't know the intricacies of all programs; however, most students take well beyond 60 hours anyway. Barbara Brothers: Many programs and majors allow a lot of electives and a lot of flexibility within electives. The 72 hours could come from major, minor, or elective hours—as the 60 hours do now; only the minimum number of hours at the upper-division level would change.

Al Pierce: If we change the requirement, we need to be sure students know about the change. Singler: We need to let faculty, advisors, and students know. Pierce: We need to be sure transfer students know, too. Not all of them are advised.

Motion carried.

2. Singler noted that the committee was asked to review the repetition-of-courses policy that appears on page 60 of the Undergraduate Bulletin. Students may now repeat a course once without a dean's approval (unless the course description stipulates otherwise). This policy isn't being enforced, however, and many students are retaking courses many times.

Singler: The Academic Standards Committee feels the policy is adequate and no change needs to be made in the policy itself. The policy simply needs to be publicized and enforced. The committee has asked Provost Scanlon to consider whether enforcement policies are in order.

F. Barger: Are you counting the numerous times some students register for a course and then drop? Are W's included in the repetition policy? Singler: No. Barger: The issue will keep emerging. The policy affects students from various socioeconomic backgrounds differently. Students on financial aid can't afford to drop a course; they have to keep courses, regardless of their grades, to keep their financial aid. Students from higher socioeconomic levels can keep dropping courses. With declining enrollments and budgets and the current registration policies, students with a history of withdrawing numerous times will shut other students out of the courses. We should be aware of how our policies affect students in different economic categories.

Beverly Gray: I think if a student receiving aid gets an F, he or she must make up the credit hours by the end of the academic year. The student may have to go to summer school and pay for the course at that time, and then aid will be reinstated.

3. Singler reported that he received a memo from the director of admissions concerning an action taken by the Senate in October 1995. At that time, the Senate passed a motion stating that courses taken to make up high school deficiencies will count as electives in students' degree programs. The memo asks:

- Does the coursework in which students are deficient count as free elective degree credits? Singler says the committee said yes; coursework taken to satisfy entrance deficiencies (other than math) counts as electives toward graduation.
- Will the coursework count as general education credit? Singler says the committee went back to the minutes and found that an amendment to the October 1995 motion indicates that students cannot count those courses toward general education requirements.
- Can these decisions vary by college or department? The committee says the Senate did not suggest that there could be variations; the policy seems to be a universal policy affecting all colleges and departments the same way.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE:

J. Morrison noted that program proposals were attached to the agenda. As he noted in the Senate Executive Committee report, questions had been raised concerning the proposal on page 16 of the agenda; the dates of receipt and approval by the College contradict. According to Morrison, Nancy White, chair of the APC, reports that the program was actually approved on 1/22.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE:

Anne York-Walusis, chair of the University Curriculum Committee (UCC), reported that the first packet of approved courses is in circulation; pending no objections, those courses will be attached to the March Senate agenda, along with those in packet 2. She urged college curriculum committee chairs to send 11 copies of each proposal to the UCC. She will send out another copy of her December 13 memo outlining how to submit proposals.

ACADEMIC PLANNING:

J. Morrison reported that an Academic Planning and Budget Committee has been appointed; the chair of the Senate Academic Planning Committee will be an ex officio member.

INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGIES, UNIVERSITY OUTREACH, LIBRARY, ACADEMIC RESEARCH, STUDENT ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, STUDENT ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE , HONORS, AND
ACADEMIC EVENTS COMMITTEES: No reports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lowell Satre noted that he has become increasingly concerned by what appears to be the University cutting itself off from the surrounding community—particularly through the closing of Spring Street and the proposed closing of Lincoln Avenue. We have worked hard to link the University with the community; now we're being counterproductive.

We host many meetings at Kilcawley Center. Our population is aging, and many of our visitors are not mobile. It's almost impossible to drop someone off in front of Kilcawley. Access is limited and difficult. No parking is available to the public in that area. People have to drive around much of the campus to get to a lot. We need parking available to Kilcawley.

The proposed closing of Lincoln Avenue is also a concern. We need a street open to the public. The public needs to have a feel for the activities at the university—to see students, faculty, and staff. As an urban institution, we can't afford to shut the public out. We need to consider another approach to traffic problems, such as speed bumps. Closing Lincoln Avenue will hurt and probably kill the businesses along Lincoln Avenue. We need the Beat, the Burger King, and the other businesses where they are, not away on the fringes. We are a small, urban institution intimately tied to and dependent on the community.

Satre made the following motion:

that the Senate assign the issue of street closings to the Senate Executive Committee for action or referral to an appropriate committee. The appropriate committee should study the impact of the closing of the streets on the University and the community, as well as the availability of parking for the public, and report back to the Senate by May 15.

The motion was seconded and carried.

ADJOURNMENT: J. Morrison adjourned the meeting at 4:43 p.m.

Stay updated on Academic Senate matters via the on-line Academic Senate Newsgroup, which you can reach through Pine.