

REGULAR MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

May 6, 1985

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the University Faculty Senate was called to order on Monday, May 6, 1985, at 4:03 p.m., with President Kuhlman presiding.

Senators not in attendance were:

Mary Clare Carroll
Donald Crossan

Donald Mogavero
Michael Pohlen

Craig L. Wilson
Robert Wilson

Senators excused were: Edith Anderson, Eric Brucker, George Cicala, Alexander Doberenz, Thomas Meierding, E. A. Trabant, Conrad Trumbore

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Three changes were requested in the Agenda: (1) that a motion to disestablish the B.A. in English: Folklore Concentration be added to the Announcements for Challenge; (2) that on the ballot for University Faculty Senate positions for 1985-1986, Ronald Lewis' name be deleted and Ruth Horowitz's affiliation be corrected to Sociology; (3) that an addendum (Attachment 3) to Attachment 8 be included under New Business, Item C. The altered Agenda was then approved by unanimous consent.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The motion to approve the minutes for the March 4 and April 8, 1985 Senate meetings was seconded and carried by a hand vote.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Kuhlman thanked and congratulated the officers, senators, chairs, and executive staff of the Senate for their successful year's work. He also welcomed the new senators for 1985-86 and announced the Senate's meeting times and policy on unexcused absences.

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR CHALLENGE

All seven announcements for curriculum revision (Attachment 1) were approved without challenge.

1. Change of degree title:
Ph.D. in Applied Sciences/Computer and Information Sciences to Ph.D. in Computer and Information Sciences
2. Revision of the B.S. in Agriculture, Plant Science major: addition of concentrations in:
General Plant Science; Pathology; Agronomy; Ornamental Horticulture
3. Revision of the B.S. in Consumer Economics:
Business concentration; Communications concentration
4. Revisions of the B.A. in Economics and the B.S. in Economics in the College of Business and Economics
5. Revision of the B.S. in Business Administration: all concentrations
6. Minor in International Business
7. Disestablish B.A. in English: Folklore Concentration

IV. OLD BUSINESS - None.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. The Senate approved Professor C. Toensmeyer's (chair, Coordinating Committee on Education) request to consider separately the recommendations by the Committees on Graduate Studies and Undergraduate Studies to change the grading system to include plus and minus grades.

1. A recommendation from the Coordinating Committee on Education (C. Toensmeyer, chair) and the Committee on Graduate Studies (J. Raffel, chair) to change the grading system to include plus and minus grades for graduate students came to the Senate moved and seconded.

Chairperson Raffel noted that his committee unanimously supported adopting a +/- system in order to better differentiate among students' class performances. According to J. DiMartile (University Registrar), research has shown that there would be few problems implementing the new grading procedures.

The debate on the recommendation was vigorous. Several senators considered the proposal inadequate as written. Senator Bellamy (Mathematics) argued that such a +/- system amounted to an attempt by the faculty to dodge their responsibility when evaluating students and that the faculty overestimated its ability to make such fine distinctions. Senator Sharnoff (Physics) questioned the wisdom of proliferating the number of passing categories in Graduate Studies. Senator T. Smith (Education, graduate student) claimed that in his informal survey no graduate student favored the proposal and that while there was a need to adjust the standards for passing a course the use of a +/- system emphasizes grades more than competence. Senator Bonner (Business Administration) added that changing the grading system posed some problems for academic standards: Would a C- grade be acceptable under the requirement "a grade of C or better"? Would a B- grade be acceptable under the requirement of "a grade of B or better"? On these grounds, he argued, the motion should be defeated as inadequate.

Other senators spoke in favor of the motion to change the grading system. Senator Chapman (Art History) said that the Art History Department unanimously supported the proposal at the graduate level on the grounds that it would cut down on grade inflation. Senator Frick (History) said that the History Department already uses +/- grades in its own student evaluations and would like to see the system implemented University-wide.

The question was called for, seconded, and carried by a hand vote. The resolution, as follows, was carried by a hand vote.

RESOLVED, that a plus and minus grading system for all students enrolled in 500-900 level courses for which letter grades are awarded be instituted concurrently with the implementation of the new student record system. The following numerical scale will be used with this system:

A	4.0	B-	2.7	D+	1.3
A-	3.7	C+	2.3	D	1.0
B+	3.3	C	2.0	D-	0.7
B	3.0	C-	1.7	F	0-0

The minimum requirement for good academic standing and for conferral of degrees for graduate students shall remain at 3.0, and the definitions of academic substandard status for graduate students shall remain as given by current policy.

2. A recommendation from the Coordinating Committee on Education (C. Toensmeyer, Chair) and the Committee on Undergraduate Studies (R. Brown, chair) to change the grading system to include plus and minus grades for undergraduates came to the Senate moved and seconded.

Chairperson Brown explained that his committee was divided on the proposal. On one hand, the C- grade would demand some revisions of department requirements of a "grade of C or better." On the other hand, while the typical undergraduate grade is a B, there is a big difference between a B+ and a B- student.

Senator Schweizer (Chemistry), noting that the proposal would penalize the University's very best students, moved to amend the motion by including a grade of A+ (4.3). The motion was seconded. Senators R. Smith (undergraduate student) and T. Smith (graduate student) spoke in favor of the amendment on the grounds that the A+ grade was formally necessary in the grading system and also would help motivate faculty to account for their grades. Senator R. Murray (Coordinator for Graduate Studies) objected to the proposed amendment because it was out of synch with the almost unanimous policy in the United States which sanctions a top grade of A (4.0).

The question was called for, seconded, and carried by a hand vote. The amendment to include a grade of A+ (4.3) was defeated by a hand vote.

Returning to the main motion, Senator D. Smith argued that the proposed change in the grading system "confused precision with accuracy, measurability with significance." Senator Sharnoff then moved to amend the resolution by allowing +/- distinctions only with a C grade, in order to alleviate some of the problems Senator Smith and

others had with the proposal. The motion to amend was seconded. The question on the motion to amend was called for, seconded, and carried by a hand vote. The amendment to the motion was defeated by a hand vote.

The question on the main motion was called for, seconded, and carried by a hand vote. Senator Schweizer requested a roll call vote on the motion. The resolution, as follows, was carried with 30 yeas, 24 nays, and 16 non-voting (Attachment 2).

RESOLVED, that a plus and minus grading system for all students enrolled in 000-400 level courses for which letter grades are awarded be instituted concurrently with the implementation of the new student records system. The following numerical scale will be used with this system:

A	4.0	B-	2.7	D+	1.3
A-	3.7	C+	2.3	D	1.0
B+	3.3	C	2.0	D-	0.7
B	3.0	C-	1.7	F	0.0

The minimum requirement for good academic standing and conferral of degrees for undergraduate students shall remain at 2.0, and the rules governing probation and dismissal for academic deficiency shall remain as given by current policy.

B. Elections of Senate Officers, a Chairperson of the Coordinating Committee on Education, two members-at-large of the Committee on Committees, a member of the Rules Committee and three members of the Nominating Committee. There were no nominations from the floor to supplement those prepared by the Nominating Committee (Z. Bowen, chair).

The results of the secret ballot were:

President	-	James R. Soles (Political Science)
Vice President	-	Raymond Callahan (History)
Secretary	-	Robert Taggart (Educational Studies)
Chairperson, Coordinating Committee on Education	-	U. Carl Toensmeyer (Agriculture & Food Economics)
Committee on Committees	-	Leslie Goldstein (Political Science)
	-	Malcolm Taylor (Life & Health Science)
Committee on Rules	-	Penny Deiner (Individual & Family Studies)
Nominating Committee	-	David Bellamy (Mathematics)
	-	Edeltraut Gilgenast (Languages & Literature)

C. The Senate unanimously confirmed the recommendations from the Committee on Committees (A. Mooney, chair) for new appointments (Attachment 3)

D. A recommendation from the Coordinating Committee on Education (C. Toensmeyer, chair), with the concurrence of the Committee on Undergraduate Studies, for the permanent status for the B.S. in Recreation/Park Administration came to the Senate moved and seconded (Attachment 4).

Chairperson Toensmeyer stated that his committee considered the program financially and administratively sound. Chairperson R. Brown noted that the program met all the criteria for a University degree program.

The question was called for, seconded, and carried by a hand vote. The resolution, as follows, was carried by a hand vote.

RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate approves and recommends to the Board of Trustees that the Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation and Park Administration be granted permanent status.

E. A recommendation from the Coordinating Committee on Education (C. Toensmeyer, chair) with the concurrence of the Committee on Graduate Studies to disestablish the Master of Applied Sciences in Computer and Information Sciences came to the Senate moved and seconded.

Chairperson Toensmeyer explained the proposal was prompted primarily by low student enrollment in the M.A.S. program over the years. In response to a question from Senator D. Smith, R. Murray (Coordinator of Graduate Studies) stated that the M.A.S. is a broad-based degree set up initially by the College of Engineering and would remain in place in all other departments where it is currently in the curriculum.

The question was called for, seconded, and carried by a hand vote. The resolution, as follows, was carried by a hand vote.

RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate approves the termination of the graduate major of Computer and Information Sciences leading to the Master of Applied Sciences degree, effective immediately.

F. A recommendation from the Committee on Student Life (C. Marler, chair) to change the sanction for academic dishonesty came to the Senate moved and seconded.

Chairperson Marler explained that the change in the sanction on the student's transcript from "judicial record" to an "X" added to the F grade was necessary since the Individual, Family and Privacy Act ensured students the right to challenge educational transcripts. Also the phrase "judicial record" would require an addendum to the transcript whereas an "X" would only constitute a change in the transcript notation. Responding to Senator F. Murray's (Dean, College of Education) question about whether the F grade signified a punishment or a failure to understand the course material, Chairperson Marler noted that according to Senate precedent, an F grade is automatically given for academic dishonesty.

The question was called for, seconded, and carried by a hand vote. The resolution, as follows, was carried by a hand vote.

RESOLVED: that the Student Judicial System: XI. Disciplinary Sanctions, Section J. 2., as approved by the Senate at its March 4 meeting, shall read as follows:

2. Students found guilty of an academic honesty violation will have an "X" notation added to the "F" grade on their University transcripts: an explanation in the legend on the transcript will state "X" = failure due to academic dishonesty."

G. A recommendation from the Committee on Student Life (C. Marler, chair) to revise the Student Rights and Responsibilities Statement in the Student Guide to Policies came to the Senate moved and seconded.

There was no discussion of the recommendation. The question was called for, seconded, and carried by a hand vote. The resolution, as follows, was carried by a hand vote.

RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate approves the following statements for inclusion in the Student Guide to Policies: [Underlined portions have been added, words in parentheses deleted]

IV. STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Freedom of Association

1. Students are free and encouraged to organize and join associations to promote their common interests. Registered student organizations may have affiliations with organizations--international, national, and/or regional--outside the University of Delaware, and be subject to policies and requirements of the parent organization, provided that this relationship entails no conflict with the criteria specified in Part 2 below, or with the requirements of the remainder of this section. For purposes of this statement the term "registered student organization" is construed to include colonies/chapters of National fraternal organizations on the University of Delaware campus. Student organizations petition the Delaware Undergraduate Student Congress for registration by filing an "Application for Registration." National fraternities and sororities wishing to establish chapters at the University of Delaware petition for permission to begin the process of establishing a colony through the Coordinator of Greek Affairs and Special Programs. Registered student organizations may use University facilities designed by University policy for meetings and other programmed activities when the facilities are available and the events are properly planned and scheduled. Upon approval of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Congress and the Dean of Students, organizations receive the status of a registered student organization. Similarly, groups of students wishing to establish a colony/chapter of a national fraternal organization will need to obtain the approval of the Vice President for Student Affairs/University President. Registered student organizations are subject to all existing University policies and regulations.

2. Policies and actions of a registered student organization are determined by a vote of only those persons who are members of the registered student organization. Membership in registered student organizations is limited to full-time undergraduate students, unless specific exceptions are approved by the Dean of Students.

3. Every student organization must choose an adviser from the faculty, professional or staff members of the University. Advisers counsel organizations on the exercise of responsibility. In a limited number of activities, such as student publications and professional societies (and the campus radio station) advisers are appointed in accordance with stated University or organization requirements. This is reflective of the fact that for such organizations advisers may need to have special knowledge in the field. Registration is not withheld or withdrawn solely because of the temporary inability of a student organization to get an adviser. Generally speaking, the selection of an adviser is the prerogative of the student organization. From the time when an organization completes the "intent to register" form, it is allowed thirty (30) days to fulfill the requirements for registration, including obtaining an adviser. Fraternal organizations will have thirty (30) days from the date on which they receive their chapter status to obtain an adviser. If an adviser resigns, a replacement must be found within thirty (30) days or the registration will be cancelled. For fraternal organizations, their ability to obtain access to University facilities and services will be curtailed until a new adviser is obtained. The termination of the adviser relationship may be made by either the student organization or the adviser.

V. OFF-CAMPUS FREEDOM OF STUDENTS

Institutional Authority and Civil Penalties
Students and student organizations of the University of Delaware are expected and required to abide by local, state and federal laws. Students and their organizations need to be aware that charges may be brought both within the University Student Judicial System and in the off-campus courts. The University administration is responsible for establishing a procedure for reviewing and taking institutional action related to students and student organizations found guilty of off-campus violations of local, state and federal laws. While the University will not act as a policing agent for students when they are off campus, the University reserves the right to take action if a student's or student organization's behavior is judged to be contrary to the pursuit of the educational mission of the University or if the continued presence of (the) students or the organization on campus poses a threat to (his or her) their well-being or the rights and property of members of the University community.

H. A recommendation from the Committee on Student Life (C. Marler, chair) to revise the Code of Conduct section of the Student Guide to Policies to highlight the policy on fire equipment/arson came to the Senate moved and seconded.

There was no discussion of the recommendation. The question was called for, seconded, and carried by a hand vote. The resolution, as follows, was carried by a hand vote.

RESOLVED, that the following be added as a new section to the Code of Conduct of the Student Guide to Policies, to replacing the present statement 9.B.:

Fire Equipment/Arson

Setting fires and tampering with or misuse of fire/safety equipment including alarms, heat sensors, smoke detectors, hoses and fire extinguishers.

I. Senator M. Huddleston introduced a resolution recommending that the board of trustees of the University of Delaware divest the University stocks, bonds, and other holdings in all corporations with investments in the Republic of South Africa (Attachment 5). (No motion introduced at this time may be acted on until the next meeting of the Senate.) In a special executive action, President Kuhlman requested that the Committee on Committees (A. Mooney, chair) appoint an ad-hoc committee to study the issue of divestment over the summer and report back to the Senate at its next meeting.

No further business was introduced. After entertaining a motion from the floor to adjourn, President Kuhlman declared the Senate meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Dutifully submitted,



Mark Amsler
Secretary
University Faculty Senate

MA/rg

- Attachments:
1. Announcements for curriculum revision
 2. Roll call vote
 3. Committee appointments for senate confirmation
 4. B.S. in Recreation and Parks Administration
 5. Resolution recommending University divestment in South Africa