

**Delta State University
Faculty Senate
Thursday, June 11, 2009
3:30 pm**

MINUTES

Members present:

Ellen Green, Hunter Moore, Adam Lynde, Dan McFall, Leslie Horton, Brett Oleis, David Hebert, Tricia Walker, Kathy Davis, Stephen Patton, Subu Swaminathan, Tracy Mims, Don Allan Mitchell, Patricia Roberts, Eckward McKnight

Also Present: Christy Montesi, Staff Representative

I. The meeting was called to order at 3:34 pm.

II. Agenda: The agenda was approved with one spelling correction.

III. Minutes: The minutes of the May 7, 2009 regular meeting were approved as amended to correct the spelling of Senator Mitra's name.

IV. President's Report

- a. President Roberts informed the Senate that question time had been removed from the agenda because the Provost was unable to attend the meeting.
- b. Point of order from Senator Lynde: All votes and resolutions must occur on the senate floor rather than online. Lynde pointed out that the Bylaws were amended last year regarding this matter. Discussion of senate business on the senate listserv should be discouraged.
- c. President Roberts pointed out that Vice President Redlin had not prioritized the previously negotiated \$200 summer school pay increase in the 09-10 budget. However, after a motion from Provost Lotven, the Cabinet voted to honor previous commitments to regular summer pay increases.
- d. President Roberts pointed out that because some faculty had expressed concern over the proposed summer pay policy, and because of the immediate need to present these concerns to the Cabinet, she asked all Senators to e-mail their opinions concerning the issue.
- e. President Roberts informed the Senate that Vice President Redlin was predicting approximately million dollars could potentially be cut from the University budget in 09-10, yet President Hilpert's budget forecast was somewhat more optimistic. However, no decisions will be made until the state legislature actually passes a budget for the State.

V. Staff Council Report

- a. Christy Montesi reported that over 160 staff members attended the Staff Development Day activities on May 19. Earl Dorsey has been named Employee of the Month.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. **Committee on Elections:** Chair Don Allan Mitchell reminded the Senate that proxy elections will be in the early part of the Fall 2009 semester.
- b. **Committee on Graduate Affairs:** Chair Dan McFall reported that the new dean, Albert Nylander, took office on June 1, 2009.
- c. **Committee on the BPAC:** Chair David Hebert reported that there had been no meetings regarding the BPAC.
- d. **Committee on University Standing Committees:** Chair Adam Lynde reported that Provost Lotven is open to re-examining committee structures and that her office is waiting for the committee reports from last year.
- e. **Committee on Technology:** Chair Subu Swaminathan reported that he currently only had access to the main faculty senate webpage but is working with OIT to get access to the other pages. He also reported that he will soon have minutes of past minutes posted to the website.
- f. **Committee on University Services:** Chair Ellen Green reported that she has had continuing conversations with Todd Davis about converting the DSU golf course to a walking trail. There is some talk on campus of the Country Club leasing the golf course.
- g. **Committee on General Academic Affairs:** Chair Leslie Horton reported that she had talked to Professor Georgene Clarke about the Composition Committee in the Division of Languages and Literature and discussed the Writing Proficiency Exam.
- h. **University Budget Committee:** Senators McKnight and Roberts told the Senate that this year's report of recommendations from the UBC have been received by the administration. Greg Redlin has asked to address the Faculty Senate about the University's budget priorities. McKnight and Roberts said that next year's focus of the UBC would be on academics and athletics. Because there are two spots open on the UBC, President Roberts requested that those interested in a two-year commitment should notify her immediately. Senator Mitchell volunteered and Senator Oleis showed some interest.

VII. Old Business

- a. Senator McKnight reported that he would serve as Chair of the Faculty Lounge Committee and would be assisted by Senator Hayes and Past Presidents Hebert and Bunn. Senator McKnight took Senator Patton's suggestion to pursue recycling an automatic key pad system.
- b. President Roberts reported that a proposal for a four day exam week is under consideration by Academic Council.
- c. Senator McKnight made a motion to ask Academic Council to table the four day exam week proposal. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. New Business

- a. Senator McFall felt that the University policy on employee tuition remission was unclear; he recommended that the Senate pursue a change in language to the application for tuition remission. This issue was referred to the Executive Committee.
- b. A discussion was held concerning the reporting of no-shows, and in particular, how they are determined in online and distance education classes. Further discussion of this issue was referred to the Executive Committee.
- c. Senator Swaminathan reported that international students are assessed a \$1239 fee at DSU before they are even matriculated as students. This policy discourages international applications and is not in line with IHL sister institutions, which have international application fees as low as \$50. This matter was referred to the Executive Committee.
- d. President Roberts reported that Provost has asked the Senate to consider potential revisions to the 2010-2011 calendar because of some concern over having both a fall and Thanksgiving break.
- e. A point of order was raised by Senator McFall concerning parliamentary procedure and executive sessions.

IX. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:54 pm.

Submitted by Don Allan Mitchell, Acting Recording Secretary
June 18, 2009