

Faculty Senate

Summary Report to the Administration

March 10, 2010 Meeting

I. Recommended Changes to the Academic Policies and Procedures Manual

The Faculty Senate approved the following changes:

1. Modify Section 4.6.3 (Steps): Change the statement “The Faculty Appellate Committee must complete action on an appeal by **March 20,**” to “*The Faculty Appellate Committee must complete action on an appeal by **March 31.***”

Rationale: Spring Break restricts the available time for careful and complete consideration.

2. Creation of new University Standing Committee:

Campus Sustainability Committee

This committee shall be comprised of the following members: (a) at least one faculty member from each school, selected by the Faculty Senate; (b) one member of the staff, appointed by the Staff Association; (c) one representative from the Student Government Association; (d) the Vice President for Business Affairs; and (e) the director of the Physical Plant, with all non-administrative members serving two year terms. The Campus Sustainability Committee shall be required to meet at least twice per academic year. The function of this committee shall be as follows: (a) investigate all information gathered in regards to issues, complaints, violations, etc., directly related to the quality of the physical environment of the University; (b) communicate closely with administration on the budget allocation, prioritization and implementation of all grounds and facilities maintenance and repairs, and; (c) place emphasis on all aspects of the campus that reflects an attitude of stewardship with the community and environment, such as, but not restricted to, the inclusion of environmentally smart and sound concepts into current and future building and renovation projects.

II. Resolutions

1. The process by which the Academic Policies and Procedures Manual is modified, dated, and reported to the general faculty is unclear. The process should be clearly and explicitly stated in the Manual, if it is not already. The following is my general suggestion, not a formal

resolution from the Faculty Senate. I offer it only to begin a discussion. If a clear procedure exists, please let me know where to find it in the Manual.

Recommended policy modifications may originate from either the Faculty Senate or the Administration. Such recommendations should be submitted to the other party for consideration. If the second party approves the original recommendation, that approval should be communicated in writing to originating party. At that point the Manual should be modified and dated, and immediate notification should be sent to the faculty. If a recommendation is not approved by the second party, the originating party should be notified, with supporting rationale, within a reasonable period of time. The originating party can then either drop the recommendation or request a conference committee between the two parties to attempt reconciliation.

2. The Faculty Senate approved a resolution that graduates names **and majors** be announced as they cross the stage at commencement.
3. The Faculty Senate approved a resolution that the University aggressively enforce safety and environmental restrictions on vehicle and cart paths on campus. (See the west side of the Russell Building).
4. The Faculty Senate approved a resolution that policies and procedures emanating from the Online Learning Council should be re-evaluated. This resolution is a result of complaints from faculty and Council members regarding online certification policies and Council conduct. The exact wording of the resolution will be forthcoming in the March 10th minutes.
5. The Faculty Senate was in general agreement that Graduation Honors Designations on diplomas and transcripts should be based on a student's complete academic performance. The current designations exclude the final semester, and there are cases of students who have 4.0 GPA's but are excluded from honors designation because they have an unresolved incomplete at the time designations are determined. Because of the recognized conflict between the desire to announce honor graduate designations during graduation ceremonies and the desire to base designations, especially on permanent transcripts and diplomas, on complete academic performance, the issue was tabled as we seek input from the registrar's office.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Chinn, Chair of the Faculty Senate

March 12, 2010