

Memorandum

Date: Monday, February 7, 2011

To: The Academic Community

From: Jaye Knutson, Secretary of the Senate

Subject: December 6, 2010, Meeting of the University Senate

The 5th regular meeting of the University Senate was held on Monday, February 7, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. in Rooms 314-315 of the University Union.

- **CALL TO ORDER** by President Tim Sullivan
- **ROLL CALL** All present excepting Donn Worgs. Chancellor Kirwan present as a Senate guest.
- **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** Moved by Professor Maronick; Seconded by Professor Cox. The Agenda was approved.
- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR December 6, 2010** Please review and forward corrections to Professor Knutson. Major corrections will be brought back to Senate for approval.
- **REPORTS OF EX OFFICIO SENATORS**

Provost Welsh. Introduced Dr. Gary Levy, Associate Provost for Resources and Planning. He is also on the Psychology Department faculty. COFAC and Honor's College's searches for dean are currently ongoing. Honors College candidates will conduct open talks on February 15 & 22 and March 1. Details are in the Daily Digest. Meetings are ongoing about the Cherry Hill Learning Zone Initiative to clarify the TU commitment to this initiative. The program must be institutionalized beyond short term faculty grant projects. The Teaching Evaluation Task Force has a 2nd meeting this week. The new adjunct system policy is being mirrored for TU campus. Teaching evaluation is a key tool. The College of Graduate Study and Research Task Force has been examining support required to maintain its academic agenda. The Towson administration will be participating in Tiger Pride Day. Dean Charlotte Exner has been leading the Trimester initiative for three years. She is retiring from this committee and will be succeeded by Rod Stump, Chair, Business & Economics, with the support of Bob Giordani.

Discussion:

(Pitcher) There have been numerous problems in Blackboard that are really making faculty work difficult, particularly for the online faculty. The introduction of new programming and absence of consultations is hurting faculty reputation with students who perceive them as the source. Please communicate that these problems are system based.

(Siegel) Does the Senate review and approve the CSGR structure? The Senate may need to be involved in changes to the research component.

Vice President for Student Affairs. Dr. Moriarty reports an unusual number of students treated for alcohol intoxication after this 1st week of school. Measures are being taken to investigate this matter & promote responsible drinking, etc. Faculty and staff concerns can reference the Counseling Center. The partnership between Student Affairs and Academic Affairs is strong. New Student and Transfer Student orientation programs are being reexamined. A new one for Transfer Students will be unveiled for next summer and a new model for 1st year students within 2 years. Civic engagement programs, in particular, incorporating service learning are how we help students think about their civic role in society in and outside of the campus.

Donna Cox commented that heavy drinkers are problematic; but more of concern is the risk-taking of high volume drinking which is promoted by the local bars—happy hours, i.e., begin drinking early and continue throughout the night. She asks faculty to make students aware that they are at risk of over-drinking via local bar promotions. Drink responsibly. Ask them to not only look out for themselves but also for their friends. Peer influence is very important.

AAUP. Senator Ballengee sponsored a workshop on the Family Care Policy to follow up on the Primary Caregiver Policy. It had a good turn out and was productive. The draft is underway. It will come to the Senate in March. University elections for the senate are coming up soon. Please encourage colleagues to self-nominate for university committees. The Committee nominations will come out within the next couple of weeks. A heads up will be distributed. Elections just before or just after Spring Break. This will include amending the Senate Constitution for voting rights. This helps promote the value of shared governance. A Second Friday is scheduled for 2nd Friday in April. Additionally a workshop from the Hagerstown campus and one featuring bullying is planned.

CUSE. Senator Siegel reported the results from an Executive Committee meeting. It is unlikely there will be future furloughs; no budget changes; and discussion included the bargaining agreement inquiries. The state employee's compensation package is purported to provide approximately \$750 but it is unknown whether this will extend to faculty; voluntary separation agreements must not give up tenure track or tenure positions (aka PINS) as a function of early retirement.

The Collective Bargaining Resolution was declined by the Chancellor. CUSF has drafted a response. The Chancellor did not address the issues of 1) the right to collective bargaining and 2) the impact on shared governance.

There will be an 1) Academic Freedom workshop in March and 2) a New Chairs workshop in April. Please announce to appropriate faculty

Chancellor Kirwan addressed the Senate on the topic of the impending Transition in Leadership, specifically, the search for a new President. He commended President Caret for his leadership and contributions for the university and state. During his tenure, the visibility, quality and reputation of Towson has increased enormously. There is a buzz about Towson across the state and across the nation. This is a huge change from as recent as 15 years ago. The university is in a position to attract a lot of very strong candidates. This puts Towson's search in a position of strength. This is a credit to the President and faculty as it is the work of the university that is reflected in this position. Katy Ryan is facilitating the search. She can be reached at kryan@umsd.edu. The President Selection Process includes a committee broadly representing the campus community and will be appointed soon.

A job description for the position for the Chancellor's approval is being created. The committee is urged to engage the community in the development of that description. The committee will cast a wide net. Candidates will be identified in an engaged and active manner. This is not a passive search. There will be a candidate review concluding with 3-4 names. The Chancellor will review and recommend names to the Board of Regents. These candidates will be interviewed. The Board of Regents will designate the final selection. The timeline:

Appointment of Committee: next week or 10 days 2/7 - 2/17/11

Convene Committee: February 28

Selection: end of Summer

Discussion:

Will faculty be able to interview or meet candidates? The Board's preference is that searches be closed. Input is given on committee appointment and job description. Exceptions have been made due to campus culture as in the case of Frostburg University.

Is there any thought on who might be an interim president and would he/she be a viable candidate? An interim assignment will be relatively brief should this be necessary. The interim position isn't a position in which a lot of decisions will be made. On the other point, I think it is not advisable for the interim to be a candidate for the position.

Will the secret ballot provision move to all of the system institutions? Is TU still on the path of growth and will this affect the Presidential search? The Chancellor responded that TU's response to state and institutional needs has grown its reputation—quality and responsiveness. A candidate with this understanding continuing along this trajectory will be very desirable. However, no one is expected to grow if the State doesn't provide its share of the cost because that risks hard earned quality.

SGA. Senator Kazanecki reported that a recent week retreat resulted in the Annual Pride Day on February 17. Approximately 200 students are planning to attend with approximately 90 appointments with delegates. This event will be preceded by an orientation. Student engagement and state funding are key topics. SGA is very active with University Committees—we are working to keep the vacancies filled. LED and sensors have been installed in selected locations in University Union and elsewhere (Green Fund). Fundraiser-Tigerathon—danceathon for children’s charity.

Senator Vatz suggests a mention to the legislators that TU is the least funded institution in the system, and that efficiency should be rewarded and not punished.

OLD BUSINESS

1. SGA Survey. The Academics Affairs Committee of the SGA instituted this survey with the purpose of trying to expedite graduation. The survey resulted in concerns being raised about obstacles with academic advising, i.e., having too many credits within a program, and frustration with registering for classes and scheduling. The survey was designed to uncover any insight into these topics and was posted on Student Voice. 940 completed responses were received.

Little data points to anything egregious. Students do want more sections in courses while recognizing the need for resources in order to provide this. Another concern is the frequency with which courses are offered. Additional concerns include 1) Department consent for enrollment in classes; and not knowing this ahead of time; and 2) Course frequency. The demographics reflected a large number of transfer students completing the survey. The scheduling of classes on the same days significantly limits student course choice options.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion 10/11-15: Approve the language in the ART policy

Senator Streets moved; Senator Cox seconded.

Carolyn Skolnik, Assistant AG, was present to field questions on this topic

Senator Siegel commented that given the commonalities associated with ART policies system-wide that, across the board, CUSF members were upset at this secret ballot procedure. The proposed changes evoked concern that these protocols would influence other institutions’ policies. If we agree that the ballot is secret, can we preserve confidentiality? To the extent that there is challenge, confidentiality cannot be confirmed. Each institution is required to have an ART policy approved by the Attorney General and sent to the Chancellor. This document was developed over time and in consultation with the many TU Provosts over change of recent leadership.

Much discussion occurred around the legal implications and details associated with a secret ballot mandate, the State's legal position on the topic, and voting abstentions and recusing.

Provost Welsh added that after providing some of her personal experience with PTRM review, she felt the solution of using ID was strongly valid and confidential. Abstentions should be few and should be for very specific, explained reasons. Otherwise, it is not acceptable. This is a critical part of faculty work. She reminded the Senate that best practices have evolved over time.

Senator Pitcher added that as a representative of the UPTRM, there is concern about the many faculty expressing their concern about the secret ballot and the issue of shared governance. The procedure for voting often reveals the distribution in general without the specificity of individual signature.

Vote: 11/7/2 Carried.

2. Motion 10/11-16: on the new program in Family Science

Karen Eskow, Chair of the Department of Family Studies, fielded questions on this topic.

Senator Dugger moved; Senator Roberts seconded.

Provost Welsh commented that this is a new program that will consume current program resources by adding new expenses without removing old expenses

Dr. Eskow reported that this program was designed to meet the needs of returning students who aren't interested in the applied piece and interested in a dual major as preparation for graduate school. This offers opportunities for students who want more individualized expertise and flexibility in outcome (which currently is strongly applied and culminates in a certificate of some sort). There is currently a very high volume of "unknown majors". Further, the College of Health Professions was consulted as an inquiry into interdisciplinary effort.

Discussion ensued regarding the number and nature of coursework proposed.

Vote: 17/1/2 Carried

3. Motion 10/11-17. Receive TEEB Report

Senator Storrs moved; Senator Ewell seconded.

Vote: 20/0/0 Carried.

Senate adjourned.

