

University Senate

Memorandum

Date: January 31, 2011

To: The Academic Community

From: Jaye Knutson, Secretary of the Senate

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

The fourth regular meeting of the University Senate was held on Monday, December 6, 2010, at 4:00 p.m. in Rooms 314-315 of the University Union.

- **CALL TO ORDER** by President Tim Sullivan
- **ROLL CALL** Judith Guerrero and Deborah Moriarty were absent
- **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** Moved by Karen Dugger; Seconded by Alex Storrs. The Agenda was approved.
- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR November 1, 2010**
Moved by Senator Cox and Seconded by Senator Siegel to postpone approval until February, 2011 pending revisions. Approved.
- **REPORTS OF EX OFFICIO SENATORS**

President Caret

Reported nothing new on the budget. With the freeze of tuition over 4 years, reasonable tuitions will be maintained (within 3%). Due to large rolling state deficit, and the absence of stimulus budget, the budget has been cut by 4% (9.2Million). He will explore ways of reducing the furlough policy. He reported that a new system plan was approved at Coppin State. TU will be developing a series of action items correlated to budgets in order to support the larger plan.

Provost Welsh

The Provost announced two upcoming campus conferences: 1) the annual January Conference on Wednesday, January 12, 2011 with the theme of being a metropolitan university; and 2) the Multicultural Conference scheduled for Thursday, March 3,

2011. The latter is for faculty and staff only on the topic of *Dangerous Teaching: Survival Tools for the 21st Century Classroom*

She announced that the deadline has passed for comments on the Middle States Self Study. All programs that have passed through the Senate have been approved by the Board of Regents and are now at MHEC. Next week is a USM conversation regarding the mission statement. The President and Provost will defend it in advance of final approval.

The Policy on Adjunct Faculty and Policy on Graduate Assistants have passed the Board of Regents and will go into effect Fall 2011. The criteria for evaluation and means of funding must be determined.

Discussion ensued regarding the relationship between institutional definitions and system categorizations; and the inclusion of students and staff in conferences in the recent past.

Vice President Sheehan

Made no report.

Vice President Rubin

Encouraged faculty to support the Capital Campaign.

AAUP

President Ballengee informed the Senate that the family care document is being formed and is following a similar timeline and process as the primary care giver policy. The Committee will workshop the topic in late January or February and then will bring to the Senate for approval. Also, working on concerns regarding Lecturer workload. A 2nd Friday program in the spring will be conducted on bullying and collegiality. Self Nominations begin in February so encourage colleagues to become involved. A newsletter will be coming out next week with this and more information.

Senator Ballengee provided an update on Primary Care Giver Policy stating that went to the Board of Regents. Senator Siegel reported that there is a financial analysis currently being conducted.

CUSF

Senator Siegel reported on the compensation for unused sick leave. There may be some compensation for retirees that have unused sick leave. Other topics of consideration are benefits for spouses. A guest has been invited to the next system meeting to discuss pension benefits. CUSF had some objections to a graduation statistic that might conflict with public perceptions. The collective bargaining resolution was passed and sent to the Chancellor and the Board of Regents. They have been uncharacteristically silent; but the unions themselves are preparing

documents that will go to the Legislature. Workshop for new department chairs will be conducted this spring.

There will be a panel discussion in March 2011 on the topic of Academic Freedom. CUSF and the Student Council shared the last meeting. Finally, staff is not eligible for raises of any sort. Many schools in the system are losing staff to other schools in the system. CUSF passed a resolution to support retention funds for this population

Discussion ensued on the topics of unused leave.

Student Government Association

Senator Kazanecki reported that \$100,000 has been allocated to student groups. Green fund allocations are moving quickly with LED lighting sensors in Newell Hall being installed. Locations are being determined now. This project is scheduled for completion by the end of January. Also, the Conserve Campaign is distributing vinyl stickers in order to raise awareness about natural resources. These will be put in a majority of buildings on campus. This initiative is funded by the student fee increase that occurred two years ago.

Student experience goals included opening the Glen until 2am and to extend Cook Library hours. The Library put together focus groups to collect statistics for students to determine if it is feasible to open library earlier or later. Consequently, the Library will be open at 7:30am in the spring. Starbucks is being encouraged to open at that time, too.

Recently, the SGA has been interacting with other system schools such as Stevenson University and planning a Baltimore Colleges SGA Day to encourage more interaction. The SGA passed a resolution for the placement of permanent smoking receptacles around campus. A survey has been distributed to determine a need for something that provides maps, dining halls, athletic schedules, etc.

Tiger Pride Day is scheduled for Thursday, February 17, 2011. Students will go to Annapolis to lobby. Discussions with Professor Vatz will influence the strategy for representation. SGA wants to heighten awareness about why Towson is noted for efficiency yet is penalized by being the 2nd least funded institution in the system.

The Diversity Forum hosted by Barry Evans provided an excellent agenda. More attendance was needed. Banners and sandwich boards are being worked on over winter for fall and student information.

TUSC

Senator Kazinski reported that Staff Awards are upcoming and encouraged a Towson representative. She would keep the Senate informed about an upcoming legislative process meeting.

Information Item

Campus Police.

Colonel Gerst distributed handouts providing profiles of TU crime trends and contexts for the variations in statistics. Some of the disparities are due to changes in categorizations of violations. Colonel Gerst believes that the addition of surveillance cameras has contributed to the reduced instances of crime. He reported the lowest total crime per 100 within the USM system.

Several key security areas have been joined under one aegis and this has created a synergy that has had a positive impact on safety and reduction of crime. A continuity of Operations Plan is being created as a model for other institutions. An Emergency Operations Plan has been revised and is due out soon.

Some inquiries were made regarding the statistics on the absence of forcible rapes and whether this indicates an absence of this occurrence or the difficulty in identifying these violations; as well as why drug and alcohol offenses weren't represented.

President Caret commended the Colonel and his team on the excellence they achieve.

Motions

1. Motion 10/11-13: To approve the granting of voting rights to the Senate Lecturer Representative

Dean Exner commented that this should be labeled non-tenure track faculty representative so that the interests of the clinical faculty are represented. Other designations were "Lecture and Clinical Faculty Representative".

Jim Anthony as Parliamentarian stated that in the Senate Constitution the Senate membership is clearly defined and these positions aren't included. A constitutional amendment will be required to make a change. Non-voting positions don't impinge upon the constitution. The Senate document was created in 1983. Voting faculty is defined in the document to only include Tenure-Track and Full-Time faculty.

Discussion ensued regarding the procedure for changing the constitution. Amendments may be proposed by 2/3 of Senate, a majority of the faculty association; and the majority of the SGA.

Amendment of Motion: Senator Siegel, Moved; Senator Ballangee, Seconded to amend the Senate Constitution to allow the voting rights of Senior Lecturer Representatives and Clinical Professors.

Vote: 22/0/0 Approved

This amendment could happen in the AAUP elections in March 2011 or earlier electronically.

2. Motion 10/11-14: To amend Constitution to approve voting rights of the TUSC representative and membership of the Senate. Senator Storrs, Moved; Senator Pitcher, Seconded.

Vote: 22/0/0 Approved

3. Motion 10/11-15: To Table the Discussion Item on Student's Access to Class. Senator Streets, moved to Table; Senator Kazanecki, Seconded; Approved

4. Motion: 10/11-16: To change the AR Form to read as recommended by the UPTRM motion. Senator Siegel, Moved; Senator Pitcher, Seconded.

Clarification was made that this motion references the ARI form that includes a student evaluation table; further, that this table be removed and this reporting be substituted by the Assessment Office report. The current AR form is no longer valid as a result of the revised ART policy.

Doug Ross, Chair, UPTRM, commented that the committee has focused on transparency and clarity as one of its important charges. This motion creates no conflict with the updating of the college documents that will ultimately result in department revisions.

Called to Question by Senator Pitcher: Vote: 21/0/1 Approved

5. Motion 10/11-17: The current grade distribution calculation already provided in the AR form should also include the GPA for each class and that information shall be provided by the appropriate university office. Senator Siegel, Moved; Senator Vatz, Seconded.

There was discussion that the term "Grade Distribution" isn't clearly defined. Currently, teachers receive a report with letter grades. UPTRM has moved that this be interpreted by class GPA. The grade distribution is a report to which the class GPA will be calculated and included in the report.

A vote was Called to Question. 22/0/1 Approved

6. Motion 10/11-18: To refer the USM system and CUSF to inquire about the substantive changes that appear to have been made to the ART after it was approved by the University Senate and UPTRM Committee. For example, all the language in ART section Appendix IIIA-5 at pg. 15 after “by secret ballot” was added AFTER the UPTRM Committee and Senate voted and approved the document. The committee approved the section up to secret ballot but not the remainder of the paragraph. The motion unanimously passed. Senator Pitcher, Moved; Senator Cox, Seconded.

Regarding secret ballots, Welsh clarified the process for the revision of the ART Policy. The Attorney General’s Office strongly encouraged voting accountability. The AGO responded to other college’s discrepancies, they will subject them to these new mandates. Hand votes will not be approved. Votes must be documented.

CUSF opposes the secret ballot policies. The faculty in the system feels particularly threatened by this recommendation that is being interpreted as a requirement. Remediation of this topic is most appropriately handled by CUSF. Senator Siegel requested direction in how to proceed on this topic.

Discussion Items

1. November 22, 2010 Towerlight article on student’s access to classes

Read the article at: <http://www.thetowerlight.com/2010/11/should-signing-up-for-classes-be-this-hard/>

Senator Streets reported that a survey is being distributed Every student is indicating their College, major/minor and comprised of a variety of questions types. The survey was prompted by the Academic Plan and three student concerns: academic advising, availability of classes, programs with too many credits to allow graduation in 4years. This discussion item was tabled pending the results of the Student Government Association campus survey on the topic.

Adjournment

Senator Storrs, Moved; Senator Hong, Seconded. Approval to adjourn at 6:25pm.