

Minutes

1) The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm; Seth Brown chaired.

The senators introduced themselves.

John Robinson gave the opening prayer.

2) The minutes from the November 2nd meeting were approved without amendments.

3) Chair's Report

The chair stressed that in the absence of a preliminary speaker, senators should direct special emphasis and attention to the evening's committee meetings.

4) Committee Reports

Student Affairs and Administrative Affairs: The two committees met jointly, with Philippe Collon reporting. Rhea Boyd, chair of the Student Senate Minority Affairs Committee, presented a Student Senate Resolution to create a university committee to investigate the incorporation of "cultural competency" within the curricula, with the intention of obtaining Faculty Senate approval before pursuing further action within the university. Several questions surfaced within committee surrounding the definition of cultural competency and the requirements that would satisfy it. Within the full senate, numerous comments and questions were raised. It was asked whether a specific problem within the curriculum concerning the lack of cultural competency has been identified. Philippe Collon remarked that fifty courses currently exist that could possibly satisfy the cultural competency issue, but the mechanics of implementing an actual requirement have not been outlined. John Stamper commented that the failure of US elementary and high schools to require foreign language study may contribute to the lack of cultural competency on the part of college students. Another senator suggested that while appropriate courses are available, students aren't taking them and that a cultural competency requirement seems to suggest that students want to be "saved from themselves." In response, a Student Senate Representative explained that students are unsure whether these currently offered courses will actually expand their cultural competency. Philippe Collon recommended that a discussion of the resolution among the full senate be postponed until the next Faculty Senate meeting and that student representatives be invited back for a continuation of the discussion.

Academic Affairs: John Robinson reported. The academic affairs committee continued its discussion regarding changes in language of the Academic Articles. Specifically, the committee is focusing on the sections pertaining to the selection and review of University officers.

Benefits Committee: Tim Ovaert reported in Nasir Ghiaseddin's absence. The discussion centered on a recent meeting of the Benefits Committee with John Affleck-Graves, other academic officers, and representatives from Human Resources. Benefits Committee members who were absent from that meeting were apprised of its content. In short, the meeting with Affleck-Graves et al. was arranged to discuss the increased burden to be borne by the faculty for health care. The fact that summer salaries are not matched with respect to retirement funds was also raised. It was agreed in committee that a meeting with the provost might be more

helpful, insofar as the provost might be more sympathetic to faculty concerns and has expressed a desire to become more involved with budget concerns. A question was raised in the full senate as to the fate of the Budget Priorities Committee, formed at least 15 years prior.

5) Old Business

None

6) New Business

Philippe Collon voiced a concern regarding the University's faculty reappointment/promotion timeline and the increased amount of time required for foreign faculty to obtain new visas. Reappointment and promotion packages are due at the end of November with reappointments made in May. With new visas taking, at minimum, four months to process, international travel is obviously restricted during the summer months for reappointed faculty. Philippe has received indication that the Office of General Counsel is willing to start the visa application process earlier, but will need guidance from the provost's office. Philippe agreed to write a letter to Provost Burish and Associate Provost Linney, notifying them of the visa/reappointment issue.

Meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Prorok