

Minutes of the Faculty Senate Session of February 6, 2007

The meeting opened at 7:03 with a prayer. Professor Brown gave the Chairs's Report.

After the Chair's Report, Professor Brown asked Professor *Jessop* to report to the Senate on the results of his survey of Notre Dame's Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC). Professor *Jessop* explained that the Center is really a spin-off of the Early Childhood Development Center that has existed at St. Mary's College for several decades and is still functioning today. Notre Dame's ECDC opened in 1986. It is located on Bulla Road, just east of Juniper Road. It serves just short of 200 children between the ages of 3 to 5 each year. All of the children served by Notre Dame's ECDC are the children of Notre Dame faculty, staff, or students. Unfortunately each year there are between 50 and 70 children of Notre Dame faculty, staff, and students who are, in principle, eligible for admission to ECDC but who don't go there because ECDC is filled to capacity. In addition to the overcrowding issue, there are some parents who find the cost of sending their children to ECDC to be prohibitive. There are also some parents who would like to have a facility like ECDC for children who are younger than three years old.

Professor Jessop explained that he has been asked by John Affleck-Graves to serve on a committee tasked with coming up with solutions to the problems just sketched. One apparently attractive solution to two of the problems just sketched - expanding the ECDC building so that it could serve more children every day - won't work because the current ECDC building is so located that its expansion is, as a practical matter, impossible. A second apparently attractive solution to all three of those problems - a commitment by the University to spend significantly more money each year on ECDC appears to be impracticable in light of the University's current spending priorities. Other potential solutions, Professor Jessop explained, are inevitably piecemeal in nature. One of these solutions would involve parents being charged significantly less for a second child at ECDC than for the first child who is there. Another would involve encouraging parents of wait-listed children to enroll them at the ECDC at St. Mary's College.

In the discussion that followed Professor Jessop's presentation, a consensus seemed to emerge in favor of encouraging the University Administration to invest in the expansion of ECDC and in subsidizing the services that it provides. Consideration of proposing a Senate resolution to that effect was referred to the Administrative Affairs Committee of the Senate.

After Professor Jessop's presentation, the Senate broke into committee meetings. After it reconvened, Professor Etzel was unanimously elected as chair of the Administrative Affairs Committee, succeeding Charlie Barber, who stepped down. In this committee chair's report, Professor Etzel said that his committee would not offer any resolution on the ECDC situation to the Senate until after Professor Jessop had met with his colleagues on the Ad Hoc Committee on ECDC and negotiated further with the University administration with regard to the problems that he had sketched in his report. Professor Etzel also reported that his committee would be involved in the review of the University's Academic Articles that is to take place this spring.

Professor Kelly Jordan, the chair of the Student Affairs Committee, reported on the Committee's meeting with Professor Thomas Flint, who oversees the implementation undergraduate Honor Code. Professor Jordan said that the committee was generally pleased with the tutorial on the Honor Code that all of our incoming undergrads are required to view. Professor Jordan also reported that there is some sentiment on his committee in favor of developing a common honor-code pledge that all undergrads would be asked to take. Professor Jordan reported, further that his committee is looking into the procedures that should be followed in the event of a classroom emergency of one sort or another, with a view towards the development of better guidelines for those situations. Professor Jordan reported, finally, that Professor Donald Pope-Davis, the Dean of the Graduate School, is making progress on a set of problems that relate to providing health-care insurance for our graduate students. Professor Pope-Davis's report on this matter should, Professor Jordan said, be released in April. The Senate will need to act promptly on that report if its views are to be heard.

Professor Nasir Ghiaseddin, the chair of the Benefits Committee, reported on the committee's discussion of John Affleck-Graves recent letter on salary increases. With regard to that letter, Professor Ghiaseddin expressed some concern about the accuracy of the inflation rate that was used in it. On another front, Professor Ghiaseddin reported that the committee had expressed concern with the slow pace at which health insurance claims are reimbursed. In discussion following Professor Ghiaseddin's report, one senator said that, when a family's health insurance claims reach a certain amount (\$250,000 was the figure used.), reimbursement becomes particularly difficult, leading Professor Ghiaseddin to speculate that the University may need to reconsider its current insurance policy governing catastrophic injuries.

Professor Jessop, the Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, reported on the committee's meeting. Its first item of business was to prepare for a committee meeting with Dennis Jacobs that was scheduled to take place later in the month. At that meeting, Professor John Gaski promised to make the case for more effective exploitation of the data that is collected by way of the Teacher Course Evaluation form that is currently in use at Notre Dame. The committee's second (and related) item of business was a discussion of how the ACPET process (where "ACPET" refers to "The Advisory Committee to the Provost on the Evaluation of Teaching") applies to the special professional faculty. That discussion, Professor Jessop said, led to a general discussion about the need for greater transparency in the way that tenure and promotion decisions are made.

After the committee reports had been made, Professor Brown opened the floor for new business. In response, Professor McKim suggested that the Senate look into the Integrity Initiative currently underway in the University. Professor McKim expressed concern both about the process by way of which this initiative came into being and about the form that it has taken, especially with regard to collegiality. Professor Brown referred the matter to the Administrative Affairs Committee. Finally, Professor Sporleder announced that April 8 to April 14 would be a special week for our School of Architecture, culminating in a symposium on the ideal college down on April 13th and 14th.

At 9: 34 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.