

University Senate

December 10, 2009

Members Present

Members present at the meeting: 87

Call to Order

Senate Chair Miller-Hooks called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes

Chair Miller-Hooks asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the November 12, 2009 meeting. Hearing none she declared the minutes approved as distributed.

Report of the Chair

Chair Miller-Hooks gave updates since the last Senate meeting in November.

Committee Reports

Committee on Committees Report: Nominations Committee Slate (Senate Document Number 09-10-20) (Action)

Linda Mabbs, Chair of the Committee on Committees, presented the Nominations Committee slate to the Senate and provided background information. Miller-Hooks opened the floor to further nominations; hearing none, she opened the floor to discussion; hearing none, she called for a vote of the Senate. The result was a majority in favor of the slate. **The motion to approve the Nominations Committee slate passed.**

Faculty Affairs Committee Report on a Proposed Policy and Procedures for Part-Time Status of Tenured and Tenure-Track Due to Childrearing Responsibilities (Senate Document Number 09-10-21) (Action)

Eric Kasischke, Chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, presented the proposal to the Senate and provided background information. Miller-Hooks opened the floor to discussion.

Senator Michael Scholten, Graduate Student, College of Computer, Mathematical & Physical Sciences, thanked the committee and read the policy on maternity leave from the graduate student handbook. He stated that the Graduate Student Government (GSG) passed a resolution (GSG28-R10) extending the time for degree completion due to child-rearing or adoption. He stated that the Senate should start thinking about a policy for graduate students. He stated that numerous peer

institutions have paid maternity leave. A similar policy would help in our recruitment and retention efforts.

Senator Jason Kahn, Faculty, College of Life Sciences, asked if in a situation where both members of a couple are employed at the University, they are both entitled to this arrangement simultaneously.

Sally Koblinsky, Faculty Affairs Committee, stated that this policy was vetted by the Legal Office. The assumption is that only one member is eligible, but she stated that she was open to an amendment.

Senator Charles Fenster, Faculty, College of Life Sciences, stated that this policy is a great first step but asked about the basis of the specific timeline. Why is it limited to just one year instead of more?

Sally Koblinsky, Faculty Affairs Committee, stated that the policy allows for a max of two years but can be combined with sick leave for two years. She stated that the committee felt that it was important for tenure-track faculty to receive feedback by the ninth year of their appointment.

Eric Kasischke, Chair, Faculty Affairs Committee, stated that it is difficult to evaluate delayed tenure cases. The committee would like to try the policy first, but it will be reviewed after a couple years to make any necessary adjustments.

Senator Charles Fenster, Faculty, College of Life Sciences, asked whether the committee polled recent mothers who are also faculty members as part of their research in developing the policy.

Sally Koblinsky, Faculty Affairs Committee, stated that the committee talked to at least 20 junior faculty in addition to discussion among the members of the committee itself.

Dean Charles Caramello, Graduate Studies, clarified that there are 2 sets of guidelines in the graduate handbook. The first applies to graduate students as degree seekers and the other as graduate assistants. He stated that there is a similar policy for degree seekers but graduate assistants are not included because they are considered students not employees.

Senator Melinda Martin-Beltran, Faculty, College of Education, commended the committee for bringing the policy forward. She also asked whether non-tenured faculty are able to renew for another two years. She also asked whether tenure-track faculty can be part-time but still go up for promotion in the normal timeframe.

Eric Kasischke, Chair, Faculty Affairs Committee, stated that the policy provides options. If a faculty member feels that they have a strong enough case, they can still move forward. They would be able to extend their part-time status without extending their tenure clock.

Senator Melinda Martin-Beltran, Faculty, College of Education, asked whether the policy applies if you had a child previously.

Sally Koblinsky, Faculty Affairs Committee, stated that the policy would be implemented as soon as it was approved and can be used for children under five.

Hearing no further discussion, Miller-Hooks called for a vote of the Senate. The result was a majority in favor of the proposal. **The motion to approve the proposal passed.**

Report of a Task Force

Update from the General Education Task Force by Ira Berlin (Information)

Miller-Hooks introduced Ira Berlin, Chair of the General Education Task Force.

Background

- Berlin explained that a review of the general education program was a mandate from the University's Strategic Plan.
- The general education program makes up 33% of our curriculum and is complicated.
- The task force met with the Provost and the Senate Chair to get an idea of the direction they would like the new plan to take.
- The task force was asked to create a plan that speaks to the unique nature of the University and to develop a brand for the program.

Current Status

- The new plan is innovative and conservative; open and demanding. It reflects our strengths and speaks to our aspirations. The plan aims for transparency and simplicity. The task force would like the plan to be engaging.
- The signature of the new plan is the I-Series courses. These courses are being piloted in the spring 2010 semester and will extend into the 2010-2011 academic year.
- The new plan will have a distributive studies component. However, it will eliminate the sub categories. It will also reduce the number of courses in distributive studies.
- There will also be a scholarship -in -practice component where students will experience applied knowledge. Courses will not just be in music appreciation but in graphic arts or playing an instrument. This will allow more colleges to participate in the new plan.
- There will be a more robust diversity requirement in the new plan.
- The new plan will also try to incorporate possibilities of experiential learning including study abroad, internships etc.
- The task force is rethinking the fundamental studies component of the plan. They are planning on eliminating exceptions. Many students currently place out of writing but will not be allowed to under the new plan.

- The task force is in the process of putting together the various parts of the plan. Many people have given input, and the task force believes that the final plan will be substantive and engaging.
- The task force should have a plan to the Senate at the start of the spring 2010 semester.

Miller-Hooks thanked Berlin for his update.

New Business

Miller-Hooks opened the floor to new business.

Wooded Hillock Resolution (Senate Document Number 09-10-23) (Action)

Senator Mark Leone, Faculty, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, made a motion to adopt a resolution to preserve the Wooded Hillock and introduced Marla McIntosh to give background information.

Miller-Hooks called for a second to the motion. Hearing a second; she opened the floor to discussion.

Marla McIntosh, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources, gave an overview of her concerns about preserving the Wooded Hillock and the need for the resolution.

Senator Eric Kasischke, Faculty, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, introduced Steve Prince from Geography to speak.

Steve Prince, Geography, thanked the Senate for its willingness to raise this topic to the highest level. He stated that the Wooded Hillock is not just a place to visit for aesthetic value but a valuable educational resource. He stated that over 1,300 students have an opportunity to see real vegetation. He believes that this area is equivalent to a laboratory experience for other disciplines and that environmental stewardship is important.

Senator Dave Tilley, Faculty, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, stated that he uses the Wooded Hillock as an example of how natural ecology repairs itself after a traumatic event like the tornado. He has approximately 50 students in this course including honors students. He stated that the Wooded Hillock is a valuable research component and that he would hate to see that lost. He believes that land use on this campus should be reviewed to accommodate the academic mission instead of just sports and recreation.

Senator Lisa Crisalli, Undergraduate, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, introduced Matthew Novak, Co-President of UMD for Clean Energy. He expressed his disappointment about the university's decision to use the Wooded Hillock as part of their relocation plans. He believes that we cannot meet the goals of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) if we do not have the will power to stand up for this region. He

believes that area politicians are looking at the decision to disrupt this area negatively. Destruction of this area is not in our best interest so he urged Senators to vote for the preservation of the Wooded Hillock.

Senator Robert Hayes, Undergraduate, College of Engineering, gave an overview of student work on the issue. He stated that the SGA believes that the Wooded Hillock is a great resource and passed a resolution to halt construction in the area. The Graduate Student Government (GSG) had a similar response and passed a unanimous resolution for preservation of the area. He then made a motion to call the question and end debate on this issue. The motion was seconded.

Miller-Hooks called for a vote on the motion to call the question and end debate. The result was a majority in favor of ending debate.

Miller-Hooks called for a vote on the motion to endorse the resolution. The result was a majority in favor of the resolution. The resolution passed.

Miller-Hooks opened the floor to further new business.

Senator John Pease, Faculty, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, introduced Gay Gullickson to speak.

Gay Gullickson, History, stated that it seems clear that a lot of changes are taking place that affect the academic mission of the campus including reorganizations. She asked what role the Senate will play in these decisions.

Miller-Hooks responded that we are expecting these proposals to come forward through Academic Programs Advisory Council (APAC), Programs, Courses & Curricula Committee (PCC), Senate Executive Committee (SEC) and the Senate. She stated that we are expecting a few of these proposals in the spring semester. She asked Chair-Elect Mabbs to clarify the status as the Senate representative on APAC.

Mabbs, Chair-Elect stated that no final proposals have been submitted to APAC. However, they do expect the College of Education and the Department of Classics to have APAC subcommittee meetings with faculty, staff and students soon. No official proposals have been submitted to APAC.

Gullickson asked whether the proposals will come to the Senate before they are finalized.

Miller-Hooks confirmed that they would.

Senator Denny Gulick, Faculty, College of Computer, Mathematical & Physical Sciences, asked whether Vice President Wylie would speak on her perspective on the Wooded Hillock issue.

Vice President Wylie, Administrative Affairs, gave information on the Wooded Hillock.

Overview

- The idea of the East Campus Project was developed in 1999 with the help of the College of Architecture.
- Relocation of 38 acres of facilities currently on east campus is a necessary component of the overall project.
- The current footprint of the existing facilities has been reduced to 14-15 acres.
- The University's Master Plan does not designate areas for industrial services. A committee, including the SGA President, a city planner and other constituents, was developed to review potential relocation sites.
- There is no good place for the relocation. Each potential option has a negative side.
 - If we relocate to Lot 1, many students could not have a car on campus, because there would not be enough parking. We could build a parking garage to accommodate this option, but it would cost \$48M, which would in turn raise the parking fee by \$400-500.
- The Campus Affairs committee reviewed the issue and asked her to reduce the impact on the area and to consider it as an educational forest.
- There are 49 acres in the tree bank.
- The Wooded Hillock has a total of 30 acres. The relocation would only take 9 acres of the area leaving 21 acres unharmed.
- The administration is still looking for alternatives, but it is impossible to look at this area in isolation. We must look at the entire environmental impact.
 - East Campus will have graduate housing, which reduces the current 3,000 metric tons of carbon created by the 17,000 students that commute to campus.
 - A forest has a fixed carbon production.
 - If we were to relocate the maintenance vehicles to the research park, there would be an increase in our carbon footprint due to the increased travel distance. East Campus is a sustainable action.
- Academic Affairs is in the process of conducting an education evaluation on the area. She stated that she will not touch the area until that report comes back.

Senator Mahlon Straszheim, Faculty, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Associate Provost, stated that the letter from Campus Affairs was just submitted to Dr. Wylie and the Provost a few weeks ago. They must weigh the educational use and the cost. The Provost has asked the Deans to provide information about the educational and research impact, including classes, enrollment, activities and research. He has also requested information on how we support those activities and if it would be possible to continue these activities with a just a portion of the Hillock. The Deans are expected to report back by February 1, 2010. The Provost will weigh the information in order to make a decision on the educational value of the area.

Senator Dave Tilley, Faculty, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, introduced Marla McIntosh to speak.

Marla McIntosh, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources, stated that she wanted to correct a statement that was made earlier. She clarified that the issue of the Wooded Hillock was brought to the Senate in June 2009.

Miller-Hooks stated that if there is no further motions for new business, the meeting must adjourn.

Adjournment

Senate Chair Miller-Hooks adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.