

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE
September 12, 2000

Chairperson Nowell called the September 2000 meeting of the University Senate to order at 3:20 p.m. in the Alumni Auditorium of the Eberly College of Business.

The following Senators were **excused** from the meeting: T. Ault, K. Berezansky, D. Bish, J. Bullard, R. Camp, C. Carranza, L. Delbrugge, B. Fennimore, H. Goldsmith, P. Groomes, T. Johnson, C. McCreary, G. Radakovic, G. Rice, A. Ruiz, D. Sadler, Judy Smith

The following Senators were **absent** from the meeting: D. Ames, N. Bharathan, P. Brode, J. Fisher, M. Gerwick, J. Heckroth, R. Hinrichsen, R. Horton, M. Howe, H. Hull, R. Johnson, M. Joyce, R. Juliette, D. Lou, F. Nee, K. Patrick, K. Polansky, C. Rodrigues, E. Ruffner, L. Savovi, L. Sciulli, V. Sharma, G. Tragos-Hoffman, M. Twal, J. VanDyke, K. Westlund, K. Wilkenson, A. Wutsch.

In addition, the following Senators (students) were **absent** from the meeting: D. Anderson, J. Baker, K. Bransford, J. Ellis, D. Greene, J. Hardy, C. Hollingshead, D. Hubbard, A. Hughes, S. Kupchella, M. Lawther, J. Mehall, S. Richards, J. Perash, C. Richardson, A. Ruiz, J. Schaefer, S. Shellmon, Judy Sta.Romana, K. Swanger, L. Zack.

The minutes of the May 2, 2000 meeting were **ACCEPTED**.

Agenda items for the September 12, 2000 meeting were **ACCEPTED**.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Dr. Pettit)

Dr. Pettit welcomed everyone back to a new academic year. He referred to an article in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette that indicated both an enrollment crisis and a budget crisis at IUP. The President explained the background of the article, and explained that the university had taken the necessary actions this year in order to avoid a deficit the third year of the recently negotiated faculty contract.

Dr. Pettit discussed the dimensions of the enrollment "problem," indicating that it is not a recruitment problem -- as we continue to do very well in that regard -- but is a retention problem. He said that retention was the focus of this summer's administrative retreat, and he is asking the faculty to join the administration in an intense analysis of our retention problem throughout the course of this academic year.

PROVOST'S REPORT (Dr. Stasziewicz)

I would like to add my welcome back to the returning senators and to welcome those of you who are serving their first term on the Senate. I appreciate your dedication to serve. I also appreciate the willingness of Dr. Nowell to serve as chair and I pledge my support to him in that role.

Since it is still early in the semester, I have only a few comments to share with you today. First, I would like to make sure all senators are aware that we are finally in a position to implement a recommendation that has been floating around for many years. That is the conversion of our Library classification from the Dewey System to the Library of Congress System. We know that there will be some disruption, but we do intend to work with the Library and Educational Services Committee and the faculty to minimize this disruption.

Secondly, I am pleased to remind everyone of the major changes taking place at the Kittanning Campus. As has been announced before, this is the last year that we will be admitting residential students to that site. After this year, we will focus on workforce-related programs for non-residential students. We are currently working with Armstrong County leaders to relocate the campus to a new facility on PA 28. I will share more information about this as the semester unfolds.

Thirdly, as many of you are painfully aware, we continue with the implementation of our new administrative systems, Banner. Many folks are working very hard to make this conversion a reality and we all ask your patience. Finally, a reminder that this year we will hopefully be able to secure AACSB accreditation in the Eberly College of Business and Information Technology and we will continue to work toward accreditation in Theater, Art and HRIM.

NOMINATION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON

Motion to approve the following:

Megan Joseph, Vice President of the Student Congress, was nominated to serve as Vice Chairperson of the University Senate.

Motion **APPROVED**.

No other nominations were received.

Motion was made to close the nominations.

Motion **APPROVED**.

Motion to approve by acclamation was received and passed.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT (Dr. Nowell)

As we begin a new academic year, I would like to welcome back all of you who have previously served as senators, and all of the new senators with us. And I would like to welcome back those of you who showed up last week, when we did not meet, and I apologize to you for the misinformation for which I was the source that our first meeting was to be a week ago.

I have to admit that we are in a bit of disarray, given that we have lost our secretary for the semester. Cathleen Ray will be on medical leave this semester, and I want to thank Ramesh Soni for assisting me today with the secretary's duties. When we reach the Rules Committee's time in the agenda we will return to the issue of replacing her. Cathleen has indicated to me that she is willing to return in the spring, or, if the Senate prefers, to submit her resignation.

As I assume the position of chair this year, I have some good news and the bad news. The good news is that we are not in the middle of a contractual crisis with a possible strike looming ahead as we were last year at this time. The bad news is that we have the lingering issue of the composition of our curriculum committees and the process by which curriculum will be approved. As former co-chair of the Graduate Committee, I think that I bring some insights that will help to resolve these issues and allow us to move on. You will hear later about an alternative to the change in the by-laws from those tabled at our last meeting in May. The initial reactions to this plan have been positive from APSCUF, and my hope is that this body will also see them as a positive change.

As we look at this issue of curriculum, I am in great distress over some of the events that have occurred this past year. In addition to some other "bending of the rules" by personnel regarding the curriculum approval process, a major violation of Senate procedures occurred at the end of the year, about which I spoke to this body at our May meeting. Specifically, management approved the offering of an extension of our existing doctoral program in Administration and Leadership to be based at East Stroudsburg University and taught by their faculty under the monitoring of our faculty. This program has been formalized through a contract with East Stroudsburg, students have been admitted, and courses are being taught. Clearly this program should have been submitted to the Graduate Committee and Senate and received approval prior to its being formalized and prior to the beginning of actual offerings.

In my mind, this is a grievous offense, one at which I personally am very insulted. I met with our Provost and presented my views in no vague terms. There is always, of course, another side to every issue. I listened to his explanation, which included great pressure from the SSHE system to move on this program and similar joint programs. The problem with that argument is that this program was first brought forth almost three years ago, allowing plenty of time for submission of its approval through the curriculum process. He conceded that was true and apologized for what has happened.

I cannot speak for our curriculum committees or for the Senate as a whole, but I personally hope that we can accept this apology and move on. The program has now been presented to the Graduate Committee for its consideration. I have a great desire to work with management concerning issues that come to this Senate. In my mind we are working toward similar goals, and I will do my best to see that administrators and faculty, as well as the students and staff, in this Senate work in a collegial manner. But apologies are empty unless they are followed by change in behavior. And make no mistake about it, we will not stand aside and let our contractual and constitutional directives regarding our role in control of the curriculum be usurped.

Make no mistake about this either: it is not only the administration that has sought to bypass the curriculum approval process. Even more distressing to me are the efforts of the faculty at this university to get what they want without following the rules. Ironically, it is the same contract that protects these few individuals, that they demand, as they seek to get their way with curriculum. (And, of course, the union cannot grieve them, since they are faculty.) We, as senators, must be diligent to see that our departments are following correct procedure. We must help our colleagues to understand that the curriculum approval process is so important in maintaining the quality of our programs and this university. And our deans must not approve proposals that are violating the curriculum process.

One problem, as I see it, is that faculty seems to see the curriculum approval process as a burden, rather than an opportunity to maintain quality, a chance to get feedback that will improve our proposals. I often hear complaints about the time required to get proposals through. At one time, my perception about our curriculum committees was strongly influenced by these comments. Then I actually worked on a curriculum committee. I found that most delays, not all, but most, were caused by proposals not following the guidelines provided to faculty. We faculty often complain about our students not being able to follow directions, or not asking questions when they don't understand. Then we turn around and do the same thing.

On the other hand, I have also seen the tendency of committee members to be extreme in their picking apart of proposals. We often focus on proposals like we are correcting student research papers, seeing our role as not only to maintain quality, but also to teach our colleagues how to write better. Clarity of proposals is necessary; Pulitzer Prize level of writing is not. It is my hope that our curriculum committees will continue to work on the guidelines for curriculum approval. I know that a revision of the graduate curriculum handbook is soon to be published. My goal is that they can accomplish their purpose while simplifying, as much as possible, a process that can be daunting to faculty members developing proposals.

Now that I have pretty much alienated everyone, let me turn to the curriculum process on the floor of the Senate. My interpretation of the right of faculty to control the curriculum is that this body as a whole has no authority to change curriculum on the floor. When curriculum proposals come to us, except for minor editorial changes, we have the option, as I see it, of approval, disapproval, or sending it back to committee. Significant changes

must be made only at the department level and then returned through the regular process. Therefore, I will not recognize motions to modify proposals that are presented by the curriculum committees.

Turning from the curriculum process, I would also ask you to recall that, no matter what position you hold outside this body, when you step in here, you are all senators. As such, you have the equal right to speak on issues that come before this body, but at the same time you are to follow parliamentary procedure. In general, there should not be back and forth exchanges among senators on the floor. All speakers must be recognized by the chair. Furthermore, as the university seeks to formalize guidelines for civility in the classroom, I urge you to set the example here in the Senate. Whatever your feelings about issues, personal attacks have no place in our proceedings.

There is a story about a wise old man who lived in a village and was revered by all -- except for some impertinent young people. An adolescent boy one day decided to test the old man's wisdom. He captured a small bird, and approached the old man with the bird cupped in his hands.

"Old man," he said, "is this bird alive or dead?" If the old man said the bird was alive, the boy planned to crush the bird in his hands and show him that it was indeed dead. If the old man said the bird was dead, the boy planned on releasing the bird and letting it fly away. The old man looked into the eyes of the boy and replied, "As you will, my son. As you will."

The effectiveness of this Senate depends on your will. Your participation in committees and attendance at these meetings is crucial. I urge you to be prompt and to remain until the end of the meeting. Our important business should not be in danger of postponement because we do not have a quorum. The time of our meeting is 3:15 to 5:00 pm. Please be here during those times. For those of you who are new, we occasionally go past that closing time, if a motion to extend the meeting is approved. Your forbearance is appreciated.

I will seek to recognize senators by name, but as I get older, I find that my chances of blanking on names of people I have known for years becomes more and more common. Please understand and if I don't call your name, state your name clearly for our secretary. Despite my hearing aids, I find this environment often difficult for understanding people. Unless you speak like Diane Duntley, you may wish to ask for a microphone. Any delay in our proceedings will be made up by our all being able to understand your contribution.

Thank you for your attention to this presentation. I will make every attempt to avoid being so verbose in future meetings.

VICE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT (Senator Joseph)

My name is Megan Joseph. I am currently a Criminology/Psychology double major here at IUP. As Vice Chair of the Senate I would like to recognize the other students who are members of the Senate, and I hope all of our faces become familiar to you.

The SC President and I plan on being very active this year. Committees are in the process of being assigned, and we have met with various people on campus (for example, Dr. Pettit, Dr. Goldsmith, etc.). We are in the process of appointing an ad-hoc spirit committee.

We encourage students to become involved in the general assembly. The next meeting is on September 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the HUB room 222.

OLD BUSINESS

SSHE SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

Issue still pending. No report.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

RULES COMMITTEE—(Chairperson Radell)

Motion by Senator Soni, seconded by Senator Buriok to nominate Jonathan B. Smith as Senate Secretary.

Motion **APPROVED.**

No other nominations were received.

Motion by Senator Soni, seconded by Senator Novels to close the nominations.

Motion **APPROVED.**

Motion to approve by acclamation by Senator Stein, seconded by Senator Zoni.

The first meeting of the Rules Committee was on Tuesday, September 5, 2000. Senator Radell was elected chair.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 19, 2000 in 214 McElhenny Hall at 3:15 p.m.

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE—(Chairperson Duntley)

The first meeting of the Academic Committee will be held on Tuesday, September 19, 2000 in room 313 of Pratt Hall, at 3:15 p.m.

AWARDS COMMITTEE—

No report submitted. The chair of this committee has yet to be selected, and the committee traditionally has the first meeting of the fall semester in October.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE—(Chairperson Sechrist)

Initial meeting was on Tuesday, September 5, 2000. The committee is waiting for the student members to be appointed. This committee should have proposals ready for the October 3, 2000 meeting.

GRADUATE COMMITTEE—(Chairperson Condo)

This committee will meet in the HUB room 225 on September 19, 2000.

LIBRARY AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE—

This committee will meet in the Stabley Library on September 19, 2000 from 3:15-5:00 p.m.

NONCREDIT COMMITTEE—(Chairperson Wolf)

This committee will meet in the Continuing Education Conference Room on September 19, 2000 from 3:15-5:00 p.m.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE—(Chairperson Numan)

This committee will meet in the Stright Hall Conference Room on September 19, 2000.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE—

The date and time of this committee meeting will be announced later in the month of September.

UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE—

It was reported and assured that the committee will meet in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Petrowski on behalf of numerous student senators questioned the environmental hazards and the visual eyesore on Wayne Ave., which is associated with the Kovalchick Salvage Company.

Chairperson Nowell pointed out that he has lived here for over fifteen years, and the company is not in violation of any laws or regulations in White Township. Chairperson Nowell stated that he has listened to this type of complaint for years and years.

Senator Staszkievicz added that no zoning laws exist in White Township, which lessens the potential of an infraction by the company.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan B. Smith
University Senate Secretary