

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The October 14, 1986 meeting of the University Senate was called to order by Chairman Buterbaugh at 3:25 p.m. in McVitty Auditorium, Sprowls Hall.

President Welty reported to the Senate on the following items:

1. Enrollment for the fall semester, 1987, has reached 13,248 students. This represents the largest enrollment in our history. We have met the goal established by our equal opportunity plan with the enrollment of 206 new minority students for the fall semester.
2. Chancellor James McCormick will be on campus on October 23, 1986. He will open the symposium titled American Dreams: The Future of Education in Fisher Auditorium at 9 a.m., at which time he will make a major statement with regard to the State System of Higher Education's involvement in teacher education. I also wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Harvey Holtz and his committee for their fine job in planning this symposium.
3. With regard to the Middle States doctoral program review, I am pleased to report that the criteria for faculty teaching graduate level courses has been agreed to by the administration and APSCUF. A three-person team will visit the campus March 29-31, 1987 to review our report on doctoral programs and conduct an on-site review.
4. The ad hoc committee appointed to develop recommendations concerning the allocation of classroom space has just about completed its work. Their report will be transmitted to Dr. George Wiley, Chair of the Development and Finance Committee of the Senate, so that it may review their recommendations. This report merits our attention and will begin to move us toward resolving some of the critical issues which we struggle with in the utilization of classroom space.
5. The Faculty Development Committee has met and has selected Dr. Hilda Richards and Ms. Carolyn Wilkie as co-chairs for the committee to begin its efforts. The committee plans to develop workshops for new faculty appointed the past two years and to review all existing faculty development programs. I am sure that the committee will report on specific activities as it is able to do so in the coming weeks.
6. Our University Family Campaign is nearing its end and pledges have increased by 40% over last year. If you haven't had an opportunity to get involved, there is still time to do so.
7. Our annual SECA Campaign is underway and you should be receiving materials shortly. President Welty urged everyone to be as generous as possible since the success of the campaign is very important to many of our community agencies.

Chairman Buterbaugh reported to the Senate on the following matters:

1. At least two committees, Finance and Development, and Research, Library and Educational Services, have had difficulty getting members together for meetings. If you are a member of either of these committees, please attend scheduled meetings so that matters can be attended to.
2. Concerning the Grade Appeals Policy, Levels I and II are pretty much in place; however, Level III implementation decisions need to be clarified. The Senate will be kept informed of progress in this area. Forms for filing grade appeals are available from Ms. Sharon Brown-McGowan in the Provost's Office.

3. Representatives are needed from the Senate to meet with the General Education Task Force and the consultant who will be on campus early in November to discuss the General Education proposal. Anyone who is interested in general education and would be willing to serve, please let Senator Buterbaugh know.

The following corrections were made to the September 16, 1986 minutes of the University Senate:

1. Excused rather than absent: Lynch, Reynolds, and Viggiano
2. Page 2: Item 3: bottom of page: "The Academic Committee will continue to receive nominations for May 1988" (rather than 1987)
3. Page 3: reference to Ohio State University in 4th paragraph--should be "Ohio University"

On a motion by Senator Chamberlin, seconded by Senator Duntley, the minutes were approved as corrected.

The following Senators were excused from the meeting: Abrams, Cignetti, Dakak, Agyei-Asamoah, Anderson, Gates, Fuget, Lipsky, Reynolds, Sommer. In addition, the following Senators were absent: Altimus, Ames, Bahn, Barker, Cahalan, Halapin, Hunter, Pavloski, Russell, Steele, Craig, Forbes, Tompkins, Welker, Wiley.

The Rules Committee submitted the following for Senate information:

1. Agenda items are to be submitted to Senator Nastase (Weyandt 10, ext. 2993) ten work days prior to the meeting date.
2. All meetings of the University Senate for 1986 are scheduled in McVitty Auditorium.
3. 1986-87 meeting dates: November 11, 1986 February 17, 1987
 December 9, 1986 March 10, 1987
 January 27, 1987 April 14, 1987
4. The Rules Committee will meet at 3:15 p.m. in Stabley on October 21.
5. A complete roster of Senate members and committee assignments should be available soon.

The Rules Committee also brought before the Senate a By-Laws revision as shown in Attachment A1; this item was brought before the Senate for discussion only. It will automatically go back to the Rules Committee for further discussion and the formal proposal will be brought to the Senate for action in November.

A substitute By-Laws revision, as shown in Attachment A2, was submitted by Senator Goodrich. This item now goes back to the Rules Committee for further discussion.

Senate Vice-Chair Dave Concannon recognized Senator Buterbaugh as past chair of the Curriculum Committee, who brought the following new course to the floor of the Senate for approval:

FN 150 - Foods

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Prerequisite: CH 102 or concurrently

Basic principles of foods, to include: composition, sanitation, preparation, and preservation.

The course was approved with one abstention.

The reports of the Senate Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and the Senate Academic Committee on the reactions to the Preliminary Report of the General Education Task Force were distributed at the Senate meeting. Chairman Buterbaugh indicated that

the Senate could react to these reports in one of two ways:

1. move to accept (or reject) these reports, but make no amendments to them;
- or 2. move that these reports be accepted as the sense of the Senate, which means that amendments could be made to them.

Senator Chamberlin moved, seconded by Senator Concannon, that the Senate accept (receive) the response of the Senate Academic Committee as a report of the Academic Policies Committee its reaction to the General Education Task Force Report. The word "accept" was amended to "receive" and the motion was approved by a majority vote. (See Attachment B)

Senator Cunningham moved, and Senator Auger seconded, the transmission of the reactions of the Senate Undergraduate Curriculum Committee to the General Education Task Force as the sense of the Senate. Several Senators spoke against this motion, and Senator Holtz, seconded by Senator Como, moved to "receive" this report. The motion to receive was then approved by the Senate. (See Attachment C)

Chairman Buterbaugh will write a letter to the General Education Task Force informing them that the Senate has "received" the reports of the Senate Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and the Senate Academic Committee concerning the preliminary report of the General Education Task Force. Any Senate members who would be interested in assisting Chairman Buterbaugh with the letter should get in touch with him. This letter will also transmit to the Task Force the following concerns of the Senate with respect to the Preliminary Report, as follows:

1. Concern as to the longevity of the General Education Committee, including permanent versus ad hoc; and their power to monitor course content and course syllabuses.
2. Concern over the powers of the General Education Committee as listed in the first draft.
3. Concern that computer literacy should be addressed for its possible inclusion in the General Education package.
4. Concern over the "housing" of the General Education program--role of the Provost's Office, the current department, dean, etc. roles.

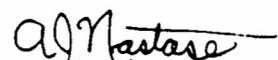
Chairman Buterbaugh requested that the Rules Committee make a decision, by the November Senate meeting, as to how the actual report of the General Education Task Force will be handled by the Senate when it comes back to us for action.

The following motion, as listed in New Business, was referred to the Rules Committee:

Motion: That, in order to encourage wider representation in the committees of the University Senate, no more than one faculty member of a department be on a committee.

On a motion by Senator Duntley, seconded by Senator Chamberlin, the meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony J. Nastase
Secretary
University Senate

Committee on Libraries and Educational Services

1. Function: The committee shall be responsible for recommending policies for the Imprint Series, Libraries/Media Resources, Information Systems and Communication Center, and the Printing Center.
2. Membership:
 - a. Appointed: Director of Libraries/Media Resources and the Director of Information Systems and Communication Center shall be appointed by virtue of their offices
 - b. Elected: Seven faculty and five students, one of whom shall be a graduate student, shall be elected by and from the members of the University Senate.
3. Officers: a chair, vice-chair and a secretary shall be elected by the committee from its members.
4. Meetings: All meetings of the committee shall be open.

Committee on Research

1. Function: The committee shall be responsible for recommending policies and procedures relating to research.
2. Membership:
 - a. Associate Dean for Research and the Director of Institutional Research shall be members of the committee by virtue of their office.
 - b. Faculty: One faculty member per academic college and one faculty member representing the University Services and four students shall be elected by and from the Senate. The Graduate School and Research and the School of Continuing Education are excluded from membership.
3. Officers: A chair, vice-chair and secretary shall be elected by the committee from its members.
4. Meetings: All meetings of the committee shall be open.

Sub-Committee on Faculty Research Grants

1. Function: The sub-committee is to receive the ranked research proposals from the College Research Committees. The sub committee must abide by the rank order set by a College Committee. The committee then recommends rank order of funding of research proposals on a University-wide basis. It is not mandatory that a proposal from each school be selected. These recommendations shall be forwarded directly to the Dean of the Graduate School and Research and to the Senate for information only.
2. Members: Only the faculty members of the Committee on Research shall constitute membership of this sub-committee.
3. Officers: a chair and a secretary shall be elected by the sub-committee from its members.

A Response of the Senate Academic Committee
to the University Senate on
The Preliminary Report of the Task Force on General Education

October 1986

The Senate Academic Committee has reviewed the report of the Task Force on General Education and supports the efforts to refocus general education in a framework of liberal studies spread across each student's program. The Committee commends the Task Force for its initial report and for the process of review and input into subsequent versions.

The Committee defined its task specifically to focus on those areas which would relate most to academic policy and procedure, understanding that the Curriculum Committee would take similar responsibility for review of the curriculum matters within its domain. Within that context, the Committee offers the following comments on areas of academic policy and procedure.

1. The Committee supports the establishment of a general education committee as part of the administration of this program with the understanding that proposals to change curriculum (courses, general requirements, program requirements) or to change academic policy or procedures will come to the Senate through the respective Senate Committees for Curriculum and Academic matters.
2. It is the recommendation of the Committee that policy issues (such as attendance) be considered separately from the proposed program for general education revision. It is appropriate for the Task Force, or for any individual or other constituent group, to forward recommendations for policy review and revision independently to the Academic Committee.
3. The Committee finds inconsistent use of the term "Basic Skills" and urges further work to clarify the meanings of "basic skills" with differentiated terminology.
--"Basic skills" may be use to refer to the pre-college level skills which

might be identified by placement/screening testing for entering students and addressed in institutional-credit courses;

--"Basic skills" may be used in terms of testing for sophomore standing or other certification of fundamental freshman-level college work in English and math;

--"Basic Skills" is used to refer to not only freshman-level English (and math) but also to the English course designed for the 4th-6th semesters.

The Committee would expect to consider as matters of academic policy the institution of any of these categories as the Task Force clarifies this area.

4. The Committee would highlight the procedural need for a timeline to be built into the final plan with specific provisions for

--development, approval, and scheduling of specific courses;

--review of each program's (major's) requirements which interface with existing general education requirements;

--transition plan for matching offering of "old" courses for students under the "old" plan and offering "new" courses under the "new" plan in a pre-determined, systematic changeover.

The Committee discussed the questions raised in the Summary of the preliminary report. At this point, the Committee senses no strong support or rationale to change the attendance or withdrawal policies. Policies are always subject to reconsideration in light of further developments, however.

The Committee will continue to work with Task Force recommendations and reports in support of refinement of the substantial work initiated in the Preliminary Report.

DATE: October 10, 1986

SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO THE PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE GENERAL
EDUCATION TASK FORCE

TO: Dr. Arlo Davis, Chairperson
Task Force on General Education

FROM: Dr. Harold Sommer
Dr. Hilda Richards, Co-Chairpersons
Senate Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UCC) met on three occasions to discuss the Preliminary Report of the Task Force on General Education and the role of the UCC in approving the final document. The following conclusions were drawn from those discussions:

1. The UCC recognizes its responsibility as the channel through which any revised general education package is reviewed and brought before the University Senate for action. It further recognizes that the Academic Affairs Committee of the Senate will review those aspects of the general education package which relate specifically to academic policy issues.
2. Further, since it is the function of the UCC to view curriculum issues as they impact upon the total University, our responses to the proposal will be, as much as possible, sensitive to, but unencumbered by, the special interests of departments and/or colleges who may be directly impacted by changes in the general education sequence and who will undoubtedly respond to the Task Force directly.

The following observations, suggestions and recommendations are offered to the Task Force on General Education concerning the Preliminary Report of the Task Force dated May 1, 1986:

GENERAL COMMENTS

1. The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee suggests that the term "Liberal Studies" be used to designate the program that is now known as General Education.
2. The UCC agrees that general education should be an integrated, four-year effort.
3. There is a general feeling in the UCC that the package, at 52-credits, will create stress between general education and the professional sequence of some

majors in maintaining the 124-hour baccalaureate degree program.

4. The UCC supports efforts to develop creative models for the delivery of a general education package.
5. General Education courses should be sensitive to, and reflect balance with respect to, gender.
6. The Task Force should give consideration to endorsing a General Education Series including films, performances, and exhibits as well as lectures on a broad range of topics which would allow faculty, students, and noted speakers from outside the University to enrich the general education curriculum.

COMMENTS SPECIFIC TO THE PROPOSAL

A. INTRODUCTION

1. General Education is not clearly defined in the proposal. The Task Force should define the common threads that must run through the package, such as an historical consciousness and an understanding of one's culture as well as the cultures of others.

B. BASIC SKILLS

1. Since the term "basic skills" carries with it the connotation that these are skills possessed by students upon entering college, the UCC supports the use of an alternative term which will distinguish between remedial courses required by some students (basic skills) and the skills pertinent to a liberal studies curriculum.
2. Does the Task Force intend to distinguish between entry-level skills and exit skills?
3. The final proposal must identify specific verbal skills (oral and written) and quantitative skills expected of college students.
4. The Task Force must be more specific in dealing with oral communication skills. The UCC recommends that there be courses throughout liberal studies in which students must articulate ideas through speech.
5. The Task Force needs to reconsider English II as presented in the proposal to ensure that adequate provisions are made that, early in their curriculum, students develop the skills needed to write, speak and do research.

C. FINE ARTS

1. The proposal in Fine Arts is pedagogically unsound and the UCC recommends that the Task Force reconsider requiring one three-credit course in Fine Arts to be chosen by the student from a list of several alternatives.

D. HUMAN HEALTH AND WELLNESS

1. The concept of health and wellness should be broadened and courses appropriate to this concept, including interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary courses, should be included.

E. ELECTIVES

1. The UCC is concerned that foreign languages have been reduced to an afterthought in the proposal and we support an effort to place more emphasis on foreign languages in the document.

F. SYNTHESIS

1. The UCC supports the idea of a synthesis course and encourages the development of a mechanism to ensure that all students will be able to demonstrate their ability to synthesize their ideas from a variety of disciplines and sources. The synthesis course may serve as one vehicle for evaluating students as they exit the general education curriculum.

G. OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

1. The UCC supports the idea that general education be housed in the Office of the Provost, but we do not support the idea that a full-time Assistant Provost be hired to monitor general education. We also recommend that the ad hoc liberal studies committee not become a permanent standing committee at the University. Further, we will continue to adhere to the policy that all action by the Office of the Provost concerning the general education curriculum be acted upon by the UCC before it is sent to the floor of the Senate.

H. SUMMARY

1. There is no articulated evaluation component in the proposal and the UCC supports the development of a means to assess all entry-level skills and basic skills as well as the exit skills of all graduates of IUP.

2. The UCC recognizes a general problem with testing/evaluation in general education courses and recommends that the Task Force consider the frequency with which students receive appropriate feedback on their progress in general education courses.
3. The UCC strongly supports efforts to integrate writing across the curriculum.