

**Minutes of the Faculty Senate  
February 1, 2006, 4:00 p.m.  
Red Room, Woodard Campus Center**

Denis Nissim-Sabat (FSP) called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. On a motion by Steve Watkins (ELS), seconded by Helen Housley (THEA), the minutes of the 7 December 2005 meeting were approved.

**Special Order of Business**

Nissim-Sabat introduced Mindy Erschull, who is substituting for Miriam Liss (PSYC), and Dan Hubbard, who is substituting for Galen DeGraff (BUS) until he arrives. He went on to note how few committee reports he had received. Suggestions to remedy the problem—such as accepting committee minutes before they had been approved or changing the meeting schedule met with little enthusiasm.

**Committee Reports**

- **Academic Affairs Committee.** No Report
- **Campus Academic Resources Committee.** No Report
- **Curriculum Committee.** Report was accepted without comment.
- **Faculty Affairs Committee.** No Report
- **Faculty Development and Grants Committee.** No Report
- **Faculty Organization Committee.** Report was accepted without comment.
- **Bachelor of Liberal Studies Committee.** Report was accepted without comment.
  
- **Global Awareness Committee.** Report was accepted without comment.
- **Race and Gender Committee.** Report was accepted without comment.
- **Writing Intensive Committee.** Report was accepted without comment.
- **Environmental Awareness Committee.** No Report
- **Speaking Intensive Committee.** Report was accepted without comment.
- **General Education Committee.** Report was accepted without comment.

**Report of the President of the Faculty Senate**

**Higher Education Advocacy Day**

Ackerman, Vasey, Fuller, Gosetti-Murrayjohn, and Nissim-Sabat attended Higher Education Advocacy Day in Richmond on 12 January and met with Delegates Orrock and Howell and a member of the staff of Senator Chichester, and also Delegate Scott of Culpeper. Angela Gosetti-Murrayjohn praised the work of Denis, Ernie and Steve did a great job articulating UMW's needs.

**Child-care Matter**

Jody Hayob (at-large) reported that the committee (Rick Pearce, Betsy Lewis, and Jody) are working on an RFP. They will try to recruit faculty from the departments of psychology and education to assist in this. Only two organizations have expressed any interest—the YMCA and the KLC (Knowledge Learning Center). KLC wants to determine if there is a real need for a center. Questions relate to how many people will

really use the center and how much they are willing to pay. Since UMW does not own a facility for it, the start-up costs will be very high. The YMCA wants to expand their Butler Road facility but that location would entail transportation problems. Questions should be addressed to Jody or Betsy Lewis.

### **Course Release for Faculty Senate President.**

Nissim-Sabat said the best course of action is to table this motion until after the new President has taken office at the University.

### **Presidential Search.**

Nissim-Sabat asked if the Faculty Senate should comment on how the presidential search was conducted.

### **Report of the Interim Dean of the Faculty**

Dean Barra commented on five matters—

1. **Faculty searches:** two of twenty-five have been completed. She reminded those involved in a search to please make appointments with her as soon as possible.
2. **IRB training:** we are reformulating the IRB. We have set up a relationship with CITI for on-line course. Members of the committee will be required to take the course. We have an on-going contract for any number of visits to the site (which is ready now) for the entire institution. Contact Christine McBride who has information on the training program.
3. **Honor Constitution Review Committee:** A committee made up of faculty, administration, students from both campuses as well as alumni and members of the BOV—co-chaired by Dean Barra and Vice President Chirico—has approved changes to the constitution that have to do with permanent notation on students' records. That will go to a vote of the entire student body.
4. **Campus Relocations:** This will be a domino-type operation. Renovation of Lee Hall is due to begin this summer. Admissions will be housed in Trinkle, room 106 (for “meet and greet” sessions at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. every day) and to a temporary building close to Fairfax House. The bookstore will be housed in another temporary building near Westmoreland Hall; the Honor Council and Judicial will go to Mercer (which will no longer be a residence hall). Police will move to Brent. IT will find off-campus space except for those involved in academic support who will all be housed in Dupont. Some of the “temps” will be on campus as long as ten years. They will be modular buildings (not Quonset huts).
5. **NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement):** Students who are participating in NSSE this semester should have received e-mails by now. Seventeen institutions will be participating.

### **Report of the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs**

John Morello distributed draft copies of the new faculty handbook to the senators. His memo (e-mailed to all faculty) provides a snapshot of the types of changes that have been made. He is asking the faculty to read the memo and the new handbook (available as a

PDF file on-line) and make suggestions. On February 24 there will be an opportunity to discuss the new handbook, with wine (not “whine”) and cheese. Hopefully the Faculty Senate will take up approval of the handbook at the March meeting, and then, if approved by the Senate, the BOV will take it up at its April meeting. John will present to the BOV two changes included in the handbook that were passed by the Senate in December but which have not yet been taken up by the BOV. We need to get this handbook approved before we hire the new president and he/she hires the new provost, since we will then have to prepare another new handbook.

**Report of the Student Representative.** Megan Cudahy reported that developments regarding the Race and Gender initiative (which includes “sexuality”) were too complicated to deliver orally. She will provide us with a written report next month.

**Report of the Honor Constitution Review Committee.** Galen DeGraff (BUS) explained that, although we have a multiple sanction system, we have a single method of notation on the record—and sometimes this can be draconian. Of the five sanctions, only two result in a break in enrollment at the University. The committee has proposed that only those two would be permanently noted on the record, and that the other three would be expunged from the record either upon graduation or three years following graduation [see report in Agenda packet for February 1]. DeGraff reminded us that the Senate can make recommendations, but that the Honor Council is run by the students and also that the BOV passed the proposed changes unanimously. Other discussion centered on what happens if a student does not graduate and on the problems of precedence, since there are incomplete data on the imposition of sanctions. Watkins (ELS) expressed astonishment that there are inadequate data to support the premise that sanctions have been unduly harsh. Further discussion on the matter was deferred to New Business.

## **New Business**

### **Motion: Regarding Notation of Honor Violations**

Jason Davidson (PSIA) moved and Gary Stanton (HISP) seconded the following motion: “The Faculty Senate expresses its opposition to the removal of notation of honor code violations for academic offenses on student transcripts. The Faculty Senate strongly encourages the Board of Visitors (and the student body if called upon to decide on this matter) to reject any change to the current practice of noting a student's academic violation of the Honor Code on her/his transcript. Given the important role faculty play—and the amount of time faculty spend—upholding the Honor Code, we hope all relevant bodies will seriously consider faculty views before making such a momentous change.”

A lengthy discussion on the merits of the motion ensued. Since the student body will vote (electronically) February 15-17, the Senate decided to take up the matter immediately rather than refer it to a committee. By way of rationale for his motion, Davidson said that faculty use of the honor code is already in decline, and that this change would only increase this trend. Wendy Atwell-Vasey (EDUC) expressed opposition to the motion but also said her department was interested in knowing what kinds of infractions are punished with which types of sanctions. Nissim-Sabat asked DeGraff (BUS) about

consistency with respect to punishment. DeGraff replied that, although there are no published guidelines, Frackleton is a stickler for consistency. He went on to say that inadequate training of both students and faculty is a problem. Hearings are shrouded in mystery, and the right of privacy precludes dissemination of information that would help us evaluate how well the system is working. Cudahy pointed out that the publication of *The Gavel* does provide information on the workings of the Honor Council. Watkins (ELS) expressed concern that a single sanction system (i.e., that all notations of academic infractions would be permanent) might result in many acquittals. Dave Long (MUSC) pointed out that if we acknowledge that this is a student-run association all we really need is the first sentence of the motion, and he offered a substitute motion to this effect. DeGraff seconded the motion. Davidson asked Long if he would consider just deleting the second sentence. Long accepted this as a friendly amendment to his substitute motion—that the motion would consist of only the first and third sentences of the original. Davidson pointed out that his motion deals only with academic offenses. DeGraff countered that we cannot differentiate between academic and other kinds of lying, and Dean Barra pointed out that the way the constitution is currently written there is no way to distinguish between the notation of academic and non-academic offenses. She went on to say that what the students are judging is the severity of the offense; they do not want to separate out academic from other types of honor offenses. Cudahy explained how the students will vote and that there will be a town hall meeting on February 7. Watkins offered a friendly amendment to change academic offenses to cheating which was accepted by Davidson. Long recommended that we vote against the motion, because what the students are really trying to do is differentiate between misdemeanors and felonies. Watkins pointed out that we need to make a syntactic change to the motion so that it reads: “the Faculty Senate expresses its opposition to the removal of notation of honor code violations **from student transcripts.**” DeGraff called for the question. The motion was defeated by a vote of nine in favor to eleven opposed.

### **Announcement**

Bulent Atalay announced that on March 14, a Nobel prize winner will speak to his course in Thermodynamics in Jepson 219. Since March 14 is Einstein’s birthday the lecture will be open to the public.

**Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Fickett, Secretary to the Faculty Senate