

PACIFIC UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
for February 28, 2008
Prepared by Jeff Seward, Chair Elect

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by the Senate Chair, Carole Timpone.

Senators present: Provost John Miller (ex officio), Gail Aamodt, David Boersema, Jim Flory, Jon Gietzen, Linda Hunt, Kevin Johnson (newly elected by A&S to replace Christine Guenther following her resignation), Shereen Khoja, Richard London, Latha Reddy (for John Medeiros), Juancho Ramirez, Victor Rodriguez, Lori Rynd, Jeff Seward, Mark Szymanski, Carole Timpone, Camille Wainwright, and Rick Whitely

Senators absent: James Lane, John Lowery, Martha Rampton

Dave Boersema moved the approval of the minutes, Rick Whitely seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously without corrections.

Shereen Khoja presented a report from the ad hoc website committee and showed the proposed website and demonstrated its features. The members of the Senate then had several group pictures taken for the website. It was agreed to move forward and finalize the website and that additional ideas for the website should be e-mailed to Shereen.

Jeff Seward presented a report on the draft of the Bylaws prepared by the ad hoc bylaws committee. Several friendly amendments to the draft were suggested and accepted. Article VII providing for an alternative to the Senate website while the website is under construction was deleted since the website is now ready. The oath of office in section 6. of Article III was deleted and replaced by a similar statement of the obligations of each Senator. The word "second" in the last line of Section 4. of Article III was replaced with the word "first" to clear up confusion about voting procedures for the office of Chair Elect.

It was moved by Jeff Seward and seconded by David Boersema to add a paragraph to Section 4. of Article III to create procedures to cover the situation in which either the Chair or the Chair Elect is unable to complete his/her term of office. This amendment was approved unanimously.

The amended language is available in the revised draft of the Bylaws and can be found on the Faculty Senate website.

A suggestion was also accepted that the Bylaws should include language to require the preparation of a schedule of the Senate meetings at the beginning of each academic year for the entire year, including dates for possible special meetings in May, June, and July.

The proposed draft of the Bylaws was then received by unanimous vote and will be up for final consideration at the March meeting of the Senate.

The Senate then proceeded to hear reports from University Standing Committees that will now be reporting to the Faculty Senate. There was nothing to report from the University Personnel Committee, the University Standards and Appeal Committee, and the Institutional Review Board.

William O'Shea, the new University Institutional Researcher, gave a report from the Curriculum and Standards Committee to alert the Senate to 1) a proposal from the College of Optometry to create separate graduate and undergraduate appeals committees for student misconduct, and 2) a proposal for a University Assessment Plan, to be presented to the Faculty Senate in March, with a request for feedback and a final vote in April. (*written committee report distributed to Senators*)

Dave Boersema gave a report from the Honors and Awards Committee describing the work of the committee, the awards it deals with, and an overview of its procedures. He alerted the Senate that the Committee would like to revise its procedures for generating nominations and intends to bring a proposal to the Senate in the near future.

Several staff members were present to answer questions about the proposal for a Staff Senate to be created as a permanent part of the University governing system. Jon Gietzen moved and Dave Boersema seconded that the Staff Senate proposal be received.

In response to concern that the process of moving business among the UC, the Faculty Senate and the Staff Senate not result in unnecessary delays, Kevin Johnson moved and Lynda Irons seconded an amendment to the proposal to delete the words "takes action" in the last line of the third full paragraph on page 3 and to insert, in the same line, prior to "Council" the words "next meeting of the". The amendment was approved unanimously.

The proposal for a Staff Senate was then received by the Senate by a unanimous vote. The full language of the revised proposal can be found on the Faculty Senate website.

The Senate Chair, Carole Timpone, as a member of the Reconciliation Task Force, then presented the draft report that was prepared by that Task Force. A friendly amendment was made to delete the words "are appointed by" from the first line of the last paragraph on page 2 of the draft report in order to clarify procedures about how members of the different committees are appointed or elected. Carole indicated that the Task Force understood that there are still a number of problems in the draft proposal that require further proofreading and revision, including making appropriate references to the Staff Senate. The Task Force intends to make these revisions before asking the Faculty Senate for final approval.

The Provost, John Miller, mentioned to the Senate that there is an urgent need to nominate an A&S representative to replace Brian Jackson on the University Curriculum and Standards Committee. The Chair agreed to communicate this as soon as possible to the A&S Faculty Chair, Cheleen Mahar.

Lori Rynd asked about the place in the governing system for the Animal Care Committee, which does not seem to appear either in the University Handbook or in the Reconciliation Task Force draft. The Chair agreed to look into that issue.

The Reconciliation Task Force draft proposal was then received by the Faculty Senate by a unanimous vote. The draft proposal will appear on the Faculty Senate Web site after corrections and revisions are made by the Reconciliation Task Force.

Carole Timpone, in her capacity as a Senator from the College of Optometry, then presented to the Senate the proposal to create separate graduate and undergraduate appeals committees to handle issues of student misconduct due to the different ethical standards relating to level of expectations for accountability and responsibility that need to be applied to these different categories of students. She indicated that this proposal had previously been taken to the University Curriculum and Standards Committee, which had declined to support the proposal in its entirety and suggested that it be brought up before the Faculty Senate.

The proposal was received by the Faculty Senate by a unanimous vote. The full language of the proposal can be found on the Faculty Senate website.

The Provost Report was presented by our new Provost, John Miller. He congratulated the Faculty Senate on creating a body and procedures that seemed to insure a Senate that would be responsible, representative and accountable. He also offered his congratulations to everyone who worked on the Accreditation Self Study and noted that it is now being used as a model of an "outstanding study" by the Northwest Accreditation Board. He stressed there are, however, recommendations of the accreditors that need prompt attention and stressed in particular the issue of assessment and a draft of a University Assessment Plan that is being prepared.

Because the fourth Thursday of March falls during spring break in the University calendar, the next meeting of the Faculty Senate was set for Thursday, March 20th, at 4:00 p.m. in the Library Conference Room. The option for designating substitute Senators in the case of known absence, as outlined in the Draft Senate By-laws, was reviewed and provisionally accepted by consensus, to facilitate a quorum at the March meeting.

The Faculty Senate meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.