

PACIFIC UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

for December 11, 2008

Prepared by Jeff Seward, Chair Elect

Final draft approved by the Senate January 22, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by the Senate Chair, Carole Timpone.

Roll call.

Senators present: Provost John Miller, Gail Aamodt, Mark Bailey David Boersema, Jim Flory, Linda Hunt, Lynda Irons, Kevin Johnson, Jennifer Jordan, Shereen Khoja, Rick London, John Medeiros, Mike Millard, Rich Van Buskirk (substituting for Martha Rampton), Victor Rodriguez, Lori Rynd, Jeff Seward, Mark Szymanski, Carole Timpone, Rick Whiteley, Lorne Yudcovitch

Senators absent: James Lane

Approval of the minutes.

The minutes of the October 23, 2008 meeting of the Senate were approved unanimously.

Introduction of administrative aide for the governance system.

Carole Timpone introduced to the Senate the newly hired administrative aide for the governance system, Karla Staihar. Her duties include managing the records, paper flow, and websites for all of the bodies in the new University governance system. Her office will be located in Berglund Hall 217, her phone number is 503-352-1478, and her e-mail address is <karlas@pacificu.edu>.

University Committee reports.

Sheryl Sanders submitted a written report from the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). She reported that the committee's main activity had been the development of a faculty survey about current use of animals on campus. However, of 281 faculty members, only 86 had returned the completed survey, and she appealed for all faculty members to be encouraged to do so. Several Senators commented that the survey instructions seemed to indicate that only faculty members who were using animals needed to fill it out and suggested that the survey be circulated again with a clear message that all faculty need to return a completed survey whether or not they use animals in their research or in the classroom.

Chris Wilkes reported on the work of the ad hoc committee that is developing a new Mission Statement for the University. He reported that the committee has received 107 comments from members of the University community about the draft mission statement that has been circulated. He appealed for additional input and urged Senators especially

to communicate input that reflected the opinions of groups of faculty that they represent. The committee is planning to complete its work by March 2009.

John Miller reported that the Presidential Search Committee has posted additional information about the search to its website, "Presidential Search," located on the home page of the Pacific University website. That page now includes a "profile" of the sort of leader of the University that is being sought as well as a calendar for the process that will lead to the selection of a new president of the University. Finalists for the position are expected to be brought to campus in late January or in February.

Carole Timpone announced that the College of Education had nominated Richard Paxton to be its representative and Bob Bumstead to be the alternate on the University Standards and Appeals Board. Mark Bailey and Dave Boersema moved and seconded approval of these nominations, and they were approved unanimously.

Update on action items on the University Council agenda.

Carole Timpone reported that the University Council had unanimously passed the changes to the University Handbook recommended by the Honors and Awards Committee (see minutes of October 23 Faculty Senate meeting for details).

However, the UC was more skeptical of an amendment to the Handbook recommended by the Senate that would allow the Senate to place items on the agenda of University Faculty meetings. The measure was received, but there were questions about the appropriateness of giving the Senate this authority (which parallels the authority of the University Faculty Chair to put items on the Senate agenda). To resolve these questions, a meeting was set for the Provost, the University Chairs and the Chair and Chair Elect of the Senate to discuss the agenda for the February 26th University Faculty meeting and to discuss the proposed amendment to the Handbook.

February 26th University faculty meeting and Chapter 4 revisions.

Kevin Johnson expressed concern about organizing the discussion at the February 26th University Faculty meeting with respect to the changes to Chapter 4 of the University Handbook dealing with criteria for tenure and promotion of faculty. He suggested that a questionnaire be developed similar to the questionnaires used to deliberate on the creation of the Faculty Senate so that the feedback of the faculty could be transmitted to the University Personnel Committee in a usable, written form.

Further discussion led to the consensus that the responsibility for developing a questionnaire or other deliberation tool that would generate written feedback lay with the University Personnel Committee rather than with the Senate itself.

Senators were also reminded that the deliberation plan of the UPC called for Colleges to transmit feedback from College meetings in writing to the UPC. Carole Timpone

encouraged all Senators to transmit faculty feedback about the Chapter 4 revisions in writing via e-mail to Jay Thomas, Chair of the UPC, and to her as Chair of the Senate.

Provost report.

Financial condition of the University. The Provost introduced Darlene Morgan, VP for Finance, to give the Senate an update on the financial condition of the University in light of the national economic crisis. She reported that, while Pacific has experienced fewer losses on its endowment investments than most other institutions, the value of the endowment had declined by 24 percent from its July 2008 level of \$53 million. However, because our endowment is relatively small, less than two percent of the University's operating budget comes from endowment income (compared to 30 percent of Harvard's operating budget). As a result, the endowment losses, while discouraging from the point of view of the long-term objective to increase the endowment substantially, do not have an immediate major effect on the University budget. The investment committee that monitors the investment strategies for the endowment, which previously met once a quarter, is now meeting on a monthly basis. The Board of Trustees must approve any major changes in asset allocation within the University's investment portfolio.

The Vice President also reported that the University's debt position and liquidity situation are both in good shape. Against \$96 million in assets, annual debt payments are approximately \$3 million. The long-term debt that the University has undertaken in the form of bonds to finance new dorms and the new campus in Hillsboro are all at fixed rates of interest below five percent. The University has unsecured lines of credit with US Bank and Wells Fargo that are available to it and are currently not being used.

The Vice President reported that the current year budget had been reset with a reduction of revenues of 3.4 percent and those budget reductions have already been handled. She expressed confidence that next year's budget currently being constructed would not involve major cuts in the University operating budget. All the Colleges of the University are expected to meet enrollment targets. The enrollment target for Arts and Science for 2009-2010 has been set at 1367 FTE (compared to actual 2008-2009 FTE of 1358). Tuition increases for A&S have been set at six percent for next fall. The Provost summed up the University's financial condition by saying that "Pacific has never been in a better place to face this sort of situation."

Football. The Provost was also asked about the status of football in light of the President's comment at the State of the University address in the fall that bringing back a football program was one of his goals for the year. The Provost put this in the context of strategic enrollment growth strategies, the high level of interest and participation of Pacific students in athletics, and the reality that most Division III schools have a football program. Football is seen by the administration as an initiative that could significantly increase undergraduate enrollment of male students and of both male and female fans who see football as an attractive part of the undergraduate experience. Asked how much money has been raised so far against the President's goal of raising \$2 million of outside startup money before launching a football program, the Provost indicated that about

\$700,000 in pledges had been received but that current economic conditions may have reduced that to around \$600,000. However, there are indications that there may be outside donors interested in making large contributions to get a football program started. The Provost said the administration would come back to the Senate in March to discuss the issue after further research and campus discussion on the issue.

Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.