



Georgetown University
University Faculty Senate

Minutes of the Faculty Senate
Tuesday Jan. 17, 2006
New Research Auditorium
(approved 2/17/06)

In Attendance:

PRESENT: Andrews, Bates, D. Betz, P. Betz, Boettcher, Clarke, Connor-Linton, Cumby, Davis, Diamond, Dover, D. Eagles, Engler, Fink, Friedman, Gale, Glazer, Goldfrank, Hirsh, Iglarsh, Keesling, Kertesz, Larsen, Lamiell, R. Manuel, G. Mara, McFadden, S.J., E. Moore, Moran Cruz, Moscovitch, Mueller, J. Murphy, Norton, G. Owens, Pedrick, Pfeiffer, Shad, Shedel, Toporowicz, Walsh, S.J., T. Walsh, Witek, S.J..

ABSENT: Aleinkoff, Arend, Bennett, Bloch, Bondurant, Doug Brown, Byrne, Canzoneri, Cleary, Cohn, G. Daly, Dimolitsas, Ernst, Furth, Gallucci, Haft, Hauser, J. Heath, Joyner, Lieber, McCabe, Oakley, J. O'Donnell, J. Peck, Ronkainen, Richmond, Sue Ross, Sandberg, Shambaugh, Sistrunk, Sitterson (sabb 06), Taylor, Tilden, Tinkcom, Verbalis, Vroman, Walker, Walters (sabb. '06), Weidenbruch, Weiss, Zukowska.

GUESTS: Stefani Blair (Blue & Gray); Gloria Massaro, Todd Olson (VP, Student Affairs)

Business: The meeting called to order at 5:20 p.m. and adjourned at 6:35 p.m

1. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of Dec 14, 2005

Motion #1: that the minutes of the previous meeting (Mon, Dec 14, 2005) be approved as amended to include in motion #1 the recommendation that "information" qualify "technology" throughout the Computer Systems Acceptable Use Policy document as appended to the minutes of the Dec 14, 2005 meeting.
The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

2. Approve Appointments to the Graduate School Dean's Search Committee and to the Faculty-Administration Development Group

Graduate School Dean's Search Committee: the Senate has been asked to make up to two appointments to this committee.

Motion #2: that Peter Pfeiffer (Department of German) be appointed to the Graduate School Dean's Search Committee.
The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

A second appointment will be made in the near future. A list of candidates from among the Main Campus science faculty has been drafted and the name of a faculty member willing to serve will be brought to the Senate for approval at a later meeting.

Faculty-Administration Development Group: President DeGioia has requested that the Senate appoint an unspecified number of faculty members to a new committee to monitor and guide the next capital campaign.

Motion #3: that Anthony Arend (Government), Robert Clarke (Oncology), Wayne Davis (Philosophy), Heidi Elmendorf (Biology) and Kathryn Sandberg (Nephrology and Hypertension) be appointed to the Faculty-Administration Development Group.
The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

A sixth appointment will be made from among the Law Center faculty; the name of a faculty member willing to serve will be brought to the Senate for approval at a later meeting.

3. Discussion of draft of "Faculty Rights and Responsibilities" for revision of the Faculty Handbook.

The Senate discussed at length the revised draft of "*Faculty Rights and Responsibilities*." It was suggested that the text reflecting the University's endorsement of much of the AAUP principles and documents could be improved. There was considerable discussion around Section B Academic Freedom, Subsection 4b, which relates to the right to change student grades. Concern was raised regarding the relevance of this to Law Center faculty and the potential imposition of a process that may not be relevant across all campuses.

Several recommendations for modification to the text were made during the Senate's deliberations as follows:

i) To the section "I. Introduction"

Delete the word "generally" and insert the words "these" and "and policies" from the second sentence of the third paragraph to read:

"Georgetown University endorses these AAUP principles and policies, with some exceptions."

Delete the clause "Rather than rely on external documents," and add "including those adopted from the AAUP document" from the third sentence of the third paragraph to read:

"This Faculty Handbook explicitly states each right and responsibility that the University has formally adopted as part of every faculty member's contract including those adopted from the AAUP document."

Insert the introductory sentence from the 1999 Faculty Handbook Section VIII. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities as noted below:

"The basic functions of the University are teaching, research and service.

ii) To section "B Academic Freedom, Subsection 4b"

Delete the text "designed to protect students against prejudiced or capricious evaluation in which the professor uses inappropriate criteria or ignores stated procedures or grading standards. Appeal procedures should be" and insert "only shall" to read:

"b. The grade assigned by a faculty member may be overruled only as the result of an appeal procedure approved by the faculty governance body responsible for academic policy in the campus or school governed by the policy. Faculty only shall review a student grade appeal, and should authorize any resulting change in a grade."

Discussion of this section was not completed and the Senate may return to discuss further its wording.

4. Other Business

A resolution was placed before the Senate relating to the planned meeting of the Palestine Solidarity Movement (PSM) to be held in Gaston Hall on Feb 17-19, 2006 (appended to these minutes). The resolution was discussed at length; Todd Olson (Vice President for Student Affairs) addressed the committee, briefly described the University's position, and answered several questions from the floor. The Senate was advised that the PSM has been asked, and has agreed, to acknowledge and adhere to the University's principles and policies relating to free speech. Concern also was raised regarding the appearance of coercive language on the registration site for the conference as currently maintained by the PSM. This concern has been raised with PSM and it is anticipated that the text will be clarified or removed from the registration page on the website. The potential for significant cost to the University for additional security was discussed; the Senate was advised that the organizers are responsible for security costs but that the university is likely also to incur some costs to ensure adequate safety and free access.

Motion #4: that the resolution as written be adopted by the Senate.

The motion was seconded and briefly discussed.

A friendly amendment was offered: that the resolution be amended to read "The Faculty Senate requests a brief report by the VP for Student Affairs on the status of Georgetown University's preparations for the PSM conference by its next meeting on February 16."

Following a relatively short discussion, the quorum was challenged; 28 of 75 senators were present. The meeting, no longer maintaining a quorum (*i.e.*, 30 senators), promptly adjourned without further discussion – no vote was taken on Motion #4.

Document Appended to the minutes of Jan 17, 2006

1. Resolution on the proposed meeting at Georgetown University by the Palestine Solidarity Movement

Resolution Text

The planned conference of the Palestine Solidarity Movement (PSM) on February 17-19, 2006 is likely to lead to a test of Georgetown University's free speech policy. In light of the record of past conferences, the Faculty Senate encourages the University administration to implement the free speech policy robustly and proactively.

Access to and registration for the PSM conference should be open and unrestricted, in appearance and in fact. Free access by the media (within space constraints) should be guaranteed by the University, not by the organizers. The University should prepare and implement mechanisms that keep speech and the exchange of information free and that minimize gross abuse.

If the University does not have clear evidence that University policies will be followed at the PSM conference, the conference should be cancelled. If substantial violations or abuses of these policies occur during the conference itself, it should be shut down.

The University should also open its doors to competing events that present alternative views and apply the same rules to all such events.

The Faculty Senate requests a brief report by the VP for Student Affairs on the status of Georgetown University's preparations for the PSM conference by its next meeting on February 16.