

**Minutes**  
**Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**October 1, 2008**

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Professor Stephen Silvia called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

Present: Professors Stephen Silvia, Lyn Stallings, Gary Weaver, James Girard, Kiho Kim, Ira Klein, Gwendolyn Reece, William Leap, John Douglass, Leigh Riddick, Nanette Levinson, Wendell Cochran, Patricia West, Stacey Snelling, Jerzy Sapieyevski, Anthony Riley, Shalini Venturelli, Joanne Savage, Steven Taylor, Randall Blair, Carolyn Gallaher, and Provost Scott Bass.

**Welcome and Introduction, Stephen Silvia**

Professor Silvia welcomed everyone to the meeting. The September minutes were approved by the Senators, with an amendment proposed by Prof. Riddick to include a fuller description of the reaction of the Kogod faculty to the August 25 draft of the strategic plan.

**Report of the Chair, Stephen Silvia**

Prof. Silvia gave a summary of three meetings that had taken place since the September Senate meeting:

*September Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting*

Professor Silvia provided a brief summary of the September Faculty Senate Executive Committee, for which minutes were also distributed. The Executive Committee discussed the best way to organize the Senate's fall agenda so that the Senate can contribute effectively to setting priorities for the University's next budget. The plan is to present broad parameters at the October meeting and to ask Senators to identify priorities at the November meeting. The drafting of a new strategic plan complicates matters. On the one hand, it enables Senators to have far more information than usual regarding faculty priorities. On the other hand, the planning process itself has for understandable reasons become the principal venue for setting priorities. The pace of drafting the plan also affects the timing of Senate discussions of the budget. As a result, the Senate needs to be prepared to adjust the proposed schedule for discussing the budget based on the pace of the Strategic Planning process. The Executive Committee also discussed the best ways to enable the faculty and the Faculty Senate to have opportunities to provide input into the drafting of the University Strategic Plan as it moves into the next step, which will include increasing the specificity of the plan. Special arrangements are needed because the November Senate meeting would come too late it to have any influence on the contents of the plan. The Board of Trustees has scheduled a special meeting for October 23 to discuss an October draft of the strategic plan. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will take place on November 20 and 21, at which the Board intends to vote on a final draft of the plan, which is to be completed in early November. Materials for Board meetings are submitted two weeks in advance. As a result, the draft of the final version must be finished by Nov. 6, which is the day after the November Senate meeting. Prof. Silvia made two suggestions of ways for the Senate and the faculty to have input on the contents of the Strategic Plan: (1) hold an open Senate Executive Committee meeting on October 22 for all interested Senators to come and to

discuss the plan with Steering Committee members, and (2) to cosponsor the last town hall meeting to discuss the plan, which is scheduled for October 28. There was widespread support among the Senators in favor of taking these two steps. Prof. Silvia reported that the Executive Committee discussed the best means to ensure that an open and transparent discussion take place regarding revisions to the Faculty Manual. He said that specifics would be taken up in the report of the Committee on Faculty Relations.

#### *September Senate-Deans Round Table Meeting*

The September meeting of the Senate-Deans Round Table discussed two topics:

- Family Leave Policy - Dean of Academic Affairs Mardirosian reported on recent meetings with the Provost's Task Force on Family Leave, which was assembled by the previous provost and consists of faculty from numerous colleges and schools. The DAA and the Task Force have made substantial progress in formulating a balanced proposal that is family friendly, flexible, financially viable and transparent. The likelihood that the proposal would be completed during the fall semester is high.
- ~~Round Table~~ participants heard an overview of the areas of the Faculty Manual that are under discussion in the Committee on Faculty Relations and discussed the best means to make the process of revising the Manual open and transparent.

#### *September Board of Trustees Meeting*

The Board of Trustees had a lengthy discussion of the Strategic Plan at a retreat on September 25 and 26. The Board asked four things of the next draft: that it be shorter, clearer, more specific and to have more inspiring prose.

Prof. Silvia also made two announcements:

- Chair of the Board of Trustees, Gary Abramson, has agreed to speak at the November Faculty Senate meeting. [N.B., since the October Senate meeting, a scheduling conflict arose for Mr. Abramson. As a result, Board Vice Chair Tom Gottschalk will speak at the Nov. Senate meeting. – SJS]
- The fall Emeriti Luncheon will be held on November 17 from 12-2 pm in the Butler Board Room. WCL Prof. Jamin Raskin will be the speaker.

#### **Report by Provost Scott Bass**

Provost Bass reported on a number of initiatives underway:

*Marketing Enrollment Management Task Force* – This group, which includes the associate deans and undergraduate administrative staff, is studying the University's enrollment policies with the objective of proposing changes to reduce fluctuations from year to year. The Task Force will produce a report for the President.

*Faculty Development* – There will be an effort to expand support for faculty by expanding the mission of the Center for Teaching Excellence to include research. The Provost’s office has already begun sponsoring workshops on grant writing, scholarship and teaching.

*Faculty Family Leave* – By the end of this calendar year, Provost Bass hopes that there will be a faculty family leave policy.

*Reorganization of the Provost’s Office* – In order to improve the operation of the provost’s office, the Provost is undertaking a reorganization. The reorganization includes creating four new Vice Provost positions. Current staff will fill two of these positions. Haig Mardirosian, will become the Senior Vice Provost in addition to serving as the Dean of Academic Affairs. Vi Ertle will become Vice Provost for Academic Administration. Searches to fill the remaining two positions – Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies, and Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Research – will begin shortly.

*Other Priorities:*

- Strengthening student retention
- Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Administration through:
  - Operations Audit of Office of Sponsored Programs
  - Operations Audit of the Office of the Registrar
  - Classroom supplies audit by Center for Teaching Excellence
  - Operations Review of the Washington Semester Program
- Greater decentralization of responsibilities to the level of the colleges and schools

## **Committee Reports**

*Joint Committee on Curriculum and Academic Affairs, Joanne Savage*

Among the new proposals forwarded to the Committee, are proposals for a graduate certificate for Women’s and Gender Studies, a new Bachelor’s Degree major in Religious Studies, and a graduate certificate in Gender and Economic Analysis.

*Faculty Development Committee, Anastasia Snelling*

The committee is focusing on scholarship this year.

*Information Services, Patricia West*

The committee has discussed new guidelines to govern the treatment of intellectual property at the University and is intending to submit a proposal on this topic to the Senate this fall. It also discussed the implementation of the new policy on the privacy of student records, initiatives of OIT, and implementing Web 2.0.

*Student Learning, Ira Klein*

Some of the issues that the committee discussed are complaints about the Campus Bookstore, alcohol abuse on campus, posting syllabi on-line, and the need for more bicycle racks on campus. Prof. Klein asked if Senators had experienced problems with the bookstore. The vast majority of Senators indicated that they had. Prof. Klein said that he would pursue these matters further.

*Committee on Faculty Relations, Randall Blair*

In addition to reviewing regular faculty actions, the committee will be revising the Faculty Manual. There are three main issues involved in the revision: (1) developing a new work-load policy, (2) redefining the parameters for the employment of full-time temporary and in-residence faculty, and (3) decentralizing decision making on faculty promotion and tenure decisions, which could include the use of secret ballots by faculty at the department/division level.

*Instructional Budget and Benefits Committee, John Douglass*

The committee has been working in consultation with the University Budget Committee and the Strategic Plan Steering committee to formulate the parameters and priorities of the budget. The next budgets will transfer a greater proportion of funds immediately to the colleges and schools in keeping with the objective of more decentralized decision-making.

### **For Good of the Order**

Professor Cochran, editor of *The American Senator*, discussed potential topics for this semester's issue and asked Senators for suggestions.

**The meeting adjourned at 4:45.**