

The meeting of the 2015-2016 Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by President Bob Soltis. The following senators were present for all or part of the meeting: Dan Alexander, Maria Clapham, Robyn Cooper, David Courard-Hauri, Debra DeLaet, Carrie Dunham-LaGree, Bruce Gilbert, Patrick Heaston, Adina Klipatrick, Craig Owens, Chuck Phillips, Nancy Reincke, Elizabeth Robertson, Eric Saylor, Joseph Schneider, LouAnn Simpson, Darcie Vandergrift, Melissa Weresh, Craige Wrenn, and Bob Soltis

Absent: Klaus Bartschat, Todd Evans, Maria Valdovinos

The March 2016 meeting minutes were accepted.

President Martin Report:

Traveling and meeting with donors have taken up much of his time these past few weeks, he stated. Also, he has multiple events in May scheduled, including a trip to China. These are trips which we believe will yield benefits in the future.

The Continuous Improvement Process (CIP) has been progressing nicely. He has this opinion via comments which he has received personally or from Nate Reagen, Matt Mitchell and the website. The adoption of the University's CIP will be next week with Board of Trustees. Remember that once adopted, this is our planning method and we'll continue to build out various plans. Also, a more user-friendly version of the plan is being considered to help with communication. The Fall 2016 admissions for first year students are lagging behind from two years ago. President Martin has just met with the Admission and Financial Aid team and they'll start to work on some new angles. He reminded the body that all Drake staff and faculty are admission and retention officers.

The effort to continually work to being more efficient and effective has a very visible project coming out live this summer. There will be a new printing contracted vendor. Drake will save dollars and have a greener footprint. The university is beginning to look at how to re-develop the property on the south side of University Avenue. Currently, there are older homes, surface parking and open spaces. There will be research done, in consultation with neighborhood constituents, and possibilities will be generated for discussion.

President Martin concluded by saying he is looking forward to all the Drake Relays activities and announced he will judge the beautiful bulldog contest with his wife.

Senator Gilbert asked when the new printing vendor is expected to begin. President Martin indicated this is expected to be done by Fall 2016.

Senator Clapham asked if there was a plan in place if the Fall 2016 enrollment target is not reached. The reply was yes, there is a contingency budget line and if necessary, other budget lines will be reviewed. He suggested the deferred maintenance lines may be again reviewed which is not good, yet a possibility. Already there is debt refinancing in process which will mean a lower interest rate. The institution will continue the 60 day hold on positions.

Senator Phillips asked if the admission numbers are behind two years ago then how far and where we will land with a first year class. President Martin indicated the current numbers are about 50 students behind two years ago. He stated there is a lot of competition on the financial aid front from our competitors.

Senator Saylor asked what might be other variables and what might be causing the fluctuation. Provost Lenz indicated the lack of AACSB accreditation is a factor. That body is scheduled to visit in October 2016. Drake should have their decision by early 2017. President Martin indicated Drake traditionally has made admission decisions and packages to a certain set of admission profile quintiles. The distribution of the funds across the quintiles is one of the variables being reviewed.

Senator Vandegrift asked if there had been any concern voiced from staff concerning the 60 day lag provision. President Martin indicated that yes, the hold is not a provision to equal cutting positions. The decision is with the President's Council leadership to review and make the delay on replacement as 'least painful' within their division.

Senator Courard-Hauri stated he has seen the admission funnel. He was curious why there seemed to be a decrease in applications. The response was that this was done by design. The decision was to generate more high quality set of applications. A goal is to boost yield by 3-4%. Provost Lenz noted Arts & Sciences is seeing increases in admission yet not in applications.

Interim Provost Lenz Report:

Noting a full agenda, Provost Lenz indicated he did not have a length report. Provost Lenz commented on what he'll offer the Board of Trustees next week. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) review process is still collecting data to support our report's claims. He felt there was more confidence now that Drake can meet HLC's requirements. He expects there will be a practice or mock review during Spring 2017 to prepare for the October 2017 actual HLC visit.

He was asked to report on JTerm and he appreciated it was requested by Senate.

Senator Alexander followed up on the HLC issue and asked what challenge the present curriculum brings to the overall HLC requirements. Provost Lenz indicated it is not what the actual curriculum is which will be an issue, it is the assessment of the curriculum and whether or not Drake has a sense of what we have as outcomes vs what we want as the outcomes.

President Soltis Report:

President Soltis reminded the body that beginning with the Fall 2016 semester plus and minus grades will become available. Reminder announcements are being made via the OnCampus newsletter and through various college and school channels.

The Strategic Diversity Action Team recently published a report and recommendations. They are asking for reactions. President Soltis suggested this is an important process and if there are Senators or their constitutions which opinions and suggestions, these could be offered now in Senate. (*Secretary's note: no comments were offered*)

An additional reminder concerned the May 2016 Senate which will include the Honorary degree and Drake Medal considerations. There will be the distribution of confidential materials. He requested the Senators be mindful of the confidential aspect of the submissions.

Unfinished Business – None presented

New Business:

Senator Gilbert moved and Simpson seconded motion 16. 11:

Amend the Senate Rules and Regulations (link at the bottom) on Page 6.

This would create a new entry, to be labelled III. A. 3. (in other words, to come after "Regular meetings" and "Special meetings.")

Proposed new language:

3. Summer meeting. In the time period between the June Board of Trustees meeting and the seventh of August, the President of the Senate shall convene a Summer meeting. The purpose of this meeting will be to increase awareness of campus developments that have arisen since the May Senate meeting, to provide faculty input on any such developments, and to begin discussions of Senate priorities for the coming year. The meeting will be informal with no ability to offer motions; any such business motions that do arise will be forwarded to Senate Exec for potential inclusion on the September business agenda. Minutes will be summary in nature, primarily concerned with what items were discussed, and will be filed at the September meeting. Guests may be invited to all or part of the meeting at the discretion of the Senate President. The duration of the meeting should not exceed ninety minutes. Invitees will include all current Senators as well as outgoing Senators from the previous year. The date and time of the meeting will be set by the President and Secretary after polling invitees for availability using electronic means; primary consideration should be given to the time that ensures the most attendance by current Senators.

<http://facultysenate.drake.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2012/12/Senate-Rules-and-Regs-Nov-2014.pdf>

A procedural motion was presented to postpone the motion and no second was received.

Senator Gilbert reflected on the situation when a person begins a term as a senator. He believed this late summer or early fall semester meeting would give a chance for the body to start the year earlier than it seems to now really get itself going. It was noted that many faculty are on nine month appointments and funding would be appropriate for them for such a meeting. Senator Heaston asked what was significant about August 7th. The reply was this is not meant to be a hard date but rather a way to create a space for a meeting before the fall semester begins. Senator Alexander offered he worried this would be an encroachment on summer similar to opening the door to a slippery slope and he was not in favor of a voluntary meeting.

The motion failed with a show of hands vote (6 in favor and 12 against)

Senate adjourned --- 4:19 p.m. Secretary, Nancy Geiger