

**Minutes of the Meeting
Of the Academic Senate**

May 19, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Tom Poundstone. Roll was called and the following Senators were present: Chair Brother Charles Hilken, Vice Chair Tom Poundstone, Past Chair Carla Bossard, David Alvarez, Zach Flanagan, Marty Rokeach, Ed Tywoniak and Parliamentarian Valerie Burke. Absent were David Bowen, Jerry Brunetti, and Gerry Capriulo.

Also present were: Provost Beth Dobkin, Sue Fallis, Sue Marston, Barbara McGraw, Associate Dean Chris Sindt, Dean Russ Tiberii, Dean Steve Woolpert, and Paul Zarnoth.

Vice Chair Poundstone said this special meeting of the Senate was convened to continue the discussion of the Core Curriculum Implementation Committee proposal, which was postponed at the May 14, 2009 Senate meeting. He suggested that first portion of the meeting be an informal discussion.

Senator Tywoniak said there are questions about how Seminar should be evaluated, by whom, and whether it should be sequential with the evaluation of Seminar, preceding other discussions of the core curriculum, or a parallel conversation. Senator Rokeach expressed concern about the content of Seminar, but questioned whether it is the Senate's purview to determine the content of any course.

Vice Chair Poundstone said the CCTF recommended the following dimensions of Seminar be considered: the length of the reading list, the best way to begin Seminar, advantages and disadvantages of the chronological versus thematic organization, inclusion of voices not heard in the conversation, student experience of Seminar, the evaluation of instructors and use of instructors, and how might Collegiate Seminar best fulfill the learning goals.

Past Chair Bossard said it is not impossible to get started on the core curriculum tasks for model 1 before all details of Collegiate Seminar are decided, she did not see the need to hold up movement on the implementation committee before decisions are made regarding Collegiate Seminar. A group could get started over the summer to establish a framework of discussion points.

Chair Brother Charles said he would like to see the first year dedicated to review of Seminar and did not want to rush the discussion.

Senator Rokeach said that whatever final form Seminar takes there will be tremendous lack of unanimity among the faculty, endless discussion, and no sense of clear resolution, no matter how long the process takes. He said there was not much to be gained by slowing the process down and extending the process for one more year. He would rather see the Senate moving forward in a proactive way.

There was discussion about whether the summer task force could move forward without full faculty participation. Chair Brother Charles noted that many faculty are not available over the summer.

Vice Chair Poundstone said that in order to fulfill the learning goals and achieve the status of the core of the core, Jan Term also needs to be brought into the conversation. What is the best education for our students?

Senator Alvarez said any resolution that will attract the support of all faculty will be difficult to achieve. He suggested to structure a process which is very focused, with the learning goals in place, and the question should be how can Seminar move us forward for the established learning goals?

Chris Sindt suggested removing Seminar and Jan Term from the program review process and placing it under the curriculum review process.

Several questioned whether the Seminar discussion group will be a subcommittee of the CCIC, as a subcommittee of the UEPC, or a parallel committee?

Provost Dobkin said there should be a subset of folks on the CCIC to also be involved in the Seminar discussion, not the same conversations, but some of the same people should be involved. The Seminar conversation should also include folks on the Seminar board.

Senator Flanagin said vague learning goals exist, but the charge of the CCIC will be to establish a final version of the learning goals with clear definition and a series of benchmarks for the learning outcomes. He suggested that this be the first stage for this group and that the group then return to the UEPC for an up or down vote.

Provost Dobkin said Seminar may be fulfilling some core requirements outside or in addition to the learning outcomes.

Vice Chair Poundstone asked Senators if there was opposition to the Seminar task force being incorporated as a subcommittee of the CCIC.

Senator Flanagin submitted a suggested structure for the CCIC and stages of a process for the committee. He qualified that his proposal is not an opposition to the CCTF proposal. Vice Chair Poundstone said this could be a model for the steps for the tasks of the CCIC and a timetable for what needs to take place. He also suggested that the Senate save implementation for the August Senate meeting with the implicit understanding that the Seminar Task Force will be a subcommittee reporting to the CCIC.

A MOTION was made by Senator Flanagin and SECONDED by Senator Tywoniak to accept the following sections of the Undergraduate Educational Policies Committee Proposal for the Core Curriculum Implementation Committee dated May 11, 2009: Rationale, Responsibilities, Membership and Meetings of the Committee, and the Reporting Structure of the Committee. The motion was unanimously approved by a hand vote of 7-0-0.

A MOTION was made by Senator Tywoniak and SECONDED by Chair Brother Charles to form a subcommittee of the CCIC to address the Seminar as charged by the CCTF document.

Senator Flanagin said the subcommittee should include members of the Governing Board, but they should not be the majority on the committee.

The Senate discussed forming the Seminar subcommittee to begin over the summer. Chair Brother Charles indicated that many faculty are not available over the summer and that would exclude many faculty from consideration. There was some confusion among Senators whether the summer committee is to be reconstituted in the fall, or if the same membership would continue. There was much discussion about the appropriate membership of the subcommittee.

Chair Brother Charles suggested combining membership of those on the Governing Board and those not on the Governing Board, young faculty who have begun to teach in Seminar, professors that know Seminar and those that do not know Seminar. Senator Rokeach said all members of the committee should have taught Seminar. He also suggested that two students who have already been through three seminars should be included on the subcommittee. Past Chair Bossard suggested that there be three members of the Seminar Board, two members of the CCIC, two members not on the CCIC and not on the CSGB, but have taught at least one seminar. Sue Marston suggested that a request go out to faculty to express their interest in serving on the subcommittee. There may be faculty with expertise in this area.

Past Chair Bossard acknowledged that it is more important for faculty to feel they are truly part of the process than it is to do this expeditiously. She strongly suggested waiting until the fall.

Chair Brother Charles said the executive committee of the Senate and the Chair and Vice Chair of the UEPC will appoint the membership of the CCIC as outlined in the CCTF proposal approved by the Senate.

The motion made by Senator Tywoniak and seconded by Chair Brother Charles to form a subcommittee of the CCIC to address the Seminar as charged by the CCTF document was withdrawn, and agreed to unanimously by voice vote.

The Senate deferred action on the "Implementation Process between Spring 2009 and Spring 2011" for the fall. Also, the membership of the Collegiate Seminar subcommittee of the CCIC will be determined in the fall.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathe Michalosky
Faculty Governance Coordinator