

UNIVERSITY SENATE MINUTES
March 5, 2010: 1:45 pm, Rowan Hall Auditorium

ATTENDEES: Smitesh Bakrania, Joe Basso, Mark Berkey-Gerard, Lori Block, Kate Boland, Gregory Caputo, Joe Cassidy, Bruce Caswell, Doug Cleary, David Clowney, Nadine Connell, Jennifer Courtney, Joel Crichlow, Ronald Czocho, Robert D’Intino, Carol Eigenbrot, Jon Foglein, Bill Freind, Dorie Gilchrist, Eddie Guerra, Roberta Harvey, Julie Haynes, Greg Hecht, Marlana Herman, Susan Hersh, Lili Levinowitz, Phillip Lewis, Janet Lindman, Douglas Mapp, Lawrence Markowitz, Corinne Meredith, Eric Milou, Diana Nicolae, Anne Phillips, Robi Polikar, Peter Rattigan, Will Riddell, Connie Rosenberger, Nick Schmelz, Richard Scott, Kathleen Sernak, Midge Shuff, Sonia Spencer, Don Stoll, Pat Alexy Stoll, Eileen Stutzbach, Skeffington Thomas, Jia Wang, Patrick Westcott, Dex Whittinghill, Tricia Yurak, Ieva Zake.

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: (Represented by Alternates) Tom Bendtsen represented by Jennie Thwing, Jerry Hough represented by Rory McElwee, Valerie Lee represented by Xiufang Chen.

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Herb Appelson, Larry Depasquale, Michele DiCorcia, Tom Doddy, Zenaida Gephardt, Jacqueline McCafferty, Phyllis Meredith, Demond Miller, Lane Savadove, Barbara Williams.

1. Approval of Agenda – moved, seconded, approved.
2. Introductions of Visitors –
 - Steven Rivera – Student Representative to the Board of Trustees
 - Elizabeth Palmer – President of Student Government Association
 - Jill Steier – Alternate Student Representative to the Board of Trustees
 - Karen Sieftring – AFT President
 - Sanford Tweedie – Strategic Enrollment Management Task Force Co-chair
 - Steven Chin – Strategic Enrollment Management Task Force Co-chair
3. Approval of Minutes from February 2010 (separate file) – moved, seconded, approved.
4. President’s Report (page 3)
5. President Farish – Attended meeting to clear up the many rumors currently around campus. The Board of Trustees has not asked him to resign, but there is a very serious matter – tension between President Farish and the Board. The President is heartened by show of support for him during this difficult time and wants us to know what has been happening. President Farish has confidence we will get through this.
6. Sandy Tweedie & Steve Chin: Strategic Management Enrollment Task Force Update. Task Force has concluded work and provided report to the Provost, which suggests the creation of a division headed by a Strategic Enrollment Management director. The Provost has already funded this office via an increase in the application fee to a level comparable to our competitors. The search committee is being formed.
7. Standing Committees & Task Forces
 - a. Academic Policies & Procedures Resolution
 - i. 2nd reading: Resolution Permitting GPA Forgiveness for Poor Performance During the First Year (pages 6-7) – moved, seconded, approved with friendly amendments.

ii. Update on the late/hardship withdrawal issue

- b. Technological Resources And Curriculum Committee - Resolution recommending that the Computer Competency Exam be dissolved and computer competency requirement suspended until an effective model for defining and assessing computer competency is adopted (page 8) – first reading. Take this info back to departments for discussion. A joint resolution by both the Technological Resources Committee and the Curriculum Committee. Estimated cost of administering the exam for students entering fall 2010 is \$50,000. Joel Crichlow agrees that the current computer competency exam is flawed but suggests that we not dissolve this test until we have something better designed to take its place. Others questioned what Middle States requires, how Technological Competency is defined/assessed within our General Education model, how information literacy will be assessed in the future, what timeline is being considered for getting a new competency mechanism in place and a suggestion that some money could be set aside for a department to assist those students who identify themselves as weak in computer skills.

c. University Budget & Planning Committee Update (page 9)

8. Old Business – none

9. New Business – none

10. Adjournment

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. Reorganization – has been endorsed by Board of Trustees and announced on Rowan Announcer.
2. Cost Center Model Update – rules regarding how the Cost Center Revenue for Distribution can and cannot be spent must still be developed. By the new model, all departments will make more money than by the old model. It will take 8 students enrolled to break even for an undergraduate class and 5 students to break even for a graduate class. Classes may still be run with lower enrollment, but that is a departmental decision.
3. Medical School Advisory Committee Update
4. Campus Master Planning Committee (page 4)
5. Informal Open Forums (page 5)
6. RU Safe Zone Training - There will be two seminars held on March 10th in the Chamberlain Student Center, Eynon Ballroom 11:00 -11:45 am AND 12:00-12:45 pm on Safe Zone training. All faculty and staff are invited. Safe Zones are locations where lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students can find someone who is supportive and has names of campus resources where the student can go for help. We will discuss LGBT students, psychosocial development during college, our resources, and how to address homophobia and heterosexism. If you are unable to attend, but would still like the information, please e-mail the contact below. RSVP by Friday, March 5th is required as food will be served.

Master Planning Committee membership
17 appointments and 3 at-large

1. Mike Harris, co-chair
2. John Hasse, co-chair
3. Finance – Joe Scully
4. Pres Office – Tom Gallia
5. Campus Aesthetics chairperson
6. SGA appointment
7. Engineer faculty
8. Planning faculty
9. Sustainability Council faculty
10. AFT Rep
11. CWA Rep
12. Athletics appointment – Joy Solomon
13. Facilities appointment – Kevin Muldoon
14. Dean appointment by administration
15. University Senate appointment
16. Medical School appointment
17. Institutional Effectiveness appointment
18. At-large seat
19. At-large seat
20. At-large seat

Charge:

The Provost, the AFT, and the University Senate cordially invite the University community to informal monthly gatherings to discuss the following:

If we were building an independent University from scratch – from day one – what would it look like? Let's start a conversation about administration, financial & academic resources, as well as facilities and infrastructure of such a University. Bring an open mind and your ideas.

Friday March 5th, 3:15 – 4:15pm: Library 226

Friday April 9th, 12:00 -1:00pm: Library 126

Friday May 7th, 3:15 – 4:15pm: Library 226

Light refreshments will be served.

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

Resolution Permitting GPA Forgiveness for Poor Performance During the First Year

WHEREAS, for a variety of reasons, some freshman undergraduate students perform very poorly when they first come to the University and end up leaving with a weak academic record;

AND WHEREAS, such students may wish to return later, having matured or otherwise resolved the issues that caused their earlier poor performance;

AND WHEREAS, these students would be discouraged or prohibited from returning to Rowan if the earlier poor performance remained part of their GPA, and since they could go elsewhere and choose not to transfer their previous academic record;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

that undergraduate students who started at Rowan University as native freshmen, earned a cumulative GPA less than 2.0 during their first academic year at Rowan University, left the University after their first academic year, and have not attended classes at Rowan University for a minimum of two consecutive years may apply to have their grades forgiven and their GPA restarted at 0.0.

Conditions and procedures:

- The **maximum** cumulative GPA that could be forgiven will be less than 2.0.
- The grades for a **maximum of 36** attempted credits could be forgiven (based on the normal maximum number of credits permitted).
- A student requesting GPA forgiveness is subject to existing procedures and timelines for re-registering or reapplying as appropriate. In addition, the student must provide a written statement requesting GPA forgiveness and presenting evidence of readiness and/or continuing progress, such as successful completion of 24 credits at a community college or another accredited institution, regular employment, or military service. The student may be asked to provide documentation of the problem that contributed to the original poor performance and/or actions taken to remedy the problem.
- Rowan University courses in which the student received a C or better will automatically be accepted as transfer credits. The grades will not count toward GPA. The credits may count toward graduation, but will not count toward the required minimum of 30 credits taken in residency. No credit will be granted for courses in which a C- or lower was earned.
- Upon readmission or reentrance, students must successfully complete at least 12 credits and maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 before the GPA forgiveness would be applied.
- The policy does not apply to graduate students.

Additional provisions:

1. The option provided by this policy is intended only for students in dire circumstances and should not be construed as desirable or advantageous. The criteria for transfer credits are stricter than for normal situations. The required documentation is similar to what would be required for students seeking reinstatement following academic dismissal. The policy is not intended to supplant existing policies and

procedures governing academic performance problems that are resolvable by the student through a relatively minor correction or temporary hiatus. These other policies and procedures include:

- Retaking a course to improve the grade
- Academic probation
- Academic dismissal
- Withdrawal from a course or courses
- Leave of absence

GPA forgiveness pertains to situations that are catastrophic and require a more intensive recovery period or growth process, such as:

- Extreme difficulty adjusting to academic expectations
- Severe illness
- Emotional or psychological trauma
- Substance abuse

2. According to current University policy, conferral of academic honors at Commencement is based on the student's GPA at the end of the first term of the senior year. The GPA must be based on a minimum of 36 semester hours of course work completed at Rowan University. A student exercising the option described in this policy will have met this minimum if he/she successfully complete his/her studies at Rowan and is therefore eligible for academic honors at Commencement. The required 36 semester hours earned at Rowan do not include Rowan courses accepted for transfer credit as permitted by this policy.
3. The student should be advised that although his/her GPA is being restarted at 0.0, his/her academic record remains intact. The complete transcript will show the grades that were forgiven, and it is possible that employers, licensing or certifying agencies, or graduate school admissions committees will use the student's "unadjusted" GPA for purposes of determining eligibility.

Recommendations for implementation:

- The Admissions Office, Registrar's Office, Career and Academic Planning Center, Academic Success Center, Dean of Students, and all academic programs should be consulted regarding implementation to ensure alignment with existing policies and procedures.
- Advisors will play a significant role in counseling students who have a poor first year and assisting them in choosing the best course of action for rectifying their situation. A specific mechanism for informing students who are leaving or re-entering the University of the option may need to be developed.
- As noted in the policy, a student exercising this option will follow existing procedures for re-registering or reapplying, depending on the circumstances of his/her leaving the University and the timeframe for his/her return. This is handled by the Admissions Office or the Registrar's Office. Evaluation and approval of the request for GPA forgiveness is an academic matter and should be a separate procedure. This evaluation will be performed by either individual representatives of academic programs (such as assistant deans or professional advisors) or a committee of such representatives.

TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES AND CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Resolution recommending that the Computer Competency Exam be dissolved and computer competency requirement suspended until an effective model for defining and assessing computer competency is adopted

WHEREAS, The use of technology is highly prevalent in secondary education which has evolved significantly since the original design of the Computer Competency Exam ten years prior;

WHEREAS, the vast majority, 98% - 99%, of incoming freshman and transfer students pass the Computer Competency Exam, an average of 41 students have completed the Computer Literacy course for the last two years;

WHEREAS, the Computer Competency Exam is difficult to keep current as the adoption of new technology happens more rapidly than the current model can sustain (i.e. current exam assesses MS Excel 2003, MS Word 2003, Windows XP, and Internet Explorer 6);

WHEREAS, the Computer Competency Exam only measures aptitude in the Microsoft Windows platform. It does not accommodate a diversity of operating systems such as Mac OS, Linux, nor others;

WHEREAS, the definition of computer competency at Rowan University is ambiguous;

WHEREAS, there is no body responsible for defining and assessing computer competency;

AND WHEREAS, the expenditures for the exam has more than doubled in the last three years, FY09 total cost of \$45,000;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Computer Competency Exam is dissolved;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the computer competency requirement is suspended;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a task force for Computer Competency is established. This body will be responsible for:

- ✦ defining the college level computer/technological competency specific to program of study
- ✦ designing and implementing an effective model for assessing computer/technological competency

University Budget and Planning Committee Report

February 19, 2010

Submitted by Bruce Caswell

1. The Senate Chair of the UBPC, Bruce Caswell, attended the Board of Trustees' Finance Committee meeting on January 10th. As of December 31, 2009, the budget for FY 2009-2010 showed a surplus of \$12,612,829. This surplus is due to the elimination of the across-the-board increase, the employee furloughs, an unexpected increase in fall enrollments, an unanticipated number of vacant positions, and other miscellaneous. This surplus brings the university reserve fund to approximately \$45 million.
2. The UBPC met with the Provost on February 9th at which time the provost suggested a task for the committee—a review of the “non-permanent” budget for Academic Affairs. The Provost provided copies of these budgets for the last three years as well as faculty load data for those three years. The Provost indicated that all divisions of the university were performing such reviews and that the UBPC might want to be involved in these other reviews as well.
3. The committee met again February 19th to discuss the Provost's suggestion. The committee decided that the historical scope of the committee has been university-wide and not limited to academic affairs. The committee also decided that the historical role of the committee has been to review the budget proposals and reports of others university-wide. Consistent with the UBPC's historical mission, the committee instructed the Senate Co-Chair Caswell to ask of President Farish that the committee be charged with reviewing and commenting on the reports of other groups tasked with unit analyzing the non-permanent budgets of the departments and divisions. The committee further resolved that it would be interested to discuss the process these other groups are using to analyzing their budget the Senate Co-Chair was instructed to communicate with the Provost and President on this.
4. The UBPC's next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 9:25-10:50 Friday March 5th. This meeting occurred this morning and committee is planning further meetings and action.