

ROWAN UNIVERSITY SENATE
MINUTES
October 23, 2006

ATTENDEES: Bonnie Angelone, Herb Appelson, David Applebaum, Joe Basso, Joe Bierman, Greg Biren, Kate Boland, Luis Brunstein, Jay Chaskes, Kevin Dahm, Robert D’Intino, Carol Eigenbrot, Kathy Ganske, Dorie Gilchrist, Karen Heinz, Vasil Hnatyshin, Elisabeth Hostetter, Cristine Iftode, Ihsan Isik, Frances Johnson, Candace Kelley, Ernst Knoesel, Lee Kress, Phillip Lewis, Yuhui Li, Julie Mallory-Church, Mary Marino, Mark Matalucci, Afrodesia McCannon, Phyllis Meredith, Eric Milou, James Newell, Bob Newland, John Pastin, Anne Phillips, Henrietta Pichon, Robi Polikar, Tanya Santangelo, Dan Schowalter, Marilyn Shontz, Karen Siefiring, Kathleen Small, Rob Sterner, Marian Stieber, Eileen Stutzbach, Susan Taber, Skeff Thomas, Sanford Tweedie, Bernadyne Weatherford, Patrick Westcott, Barbara Williams, Cathy Yang, Tricia Yurak, Hong Zhang

NOT IN ADDENTANCE-REPRESENTED BY ALTERNATE: Lori Block represented by Susan Hersh, Erick Guerra represented by Sandra Jones, Brenda Marlin represented by Alicia Groatman, Don Stoll represented by Jennifer Courtney

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Bruce Caswell, John Hasse, Matthew Lund, Yusuf Mehta, Anthony Robb, Tony Smith

Call to Order at 10:50 a.m. by President Newell
Minutes of 9/18/06 approved unanimously
Agenda approved unanimously

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Newell discussed the Provost’s request for an oversight committee. The Provost has proposed that both the Senate and deans select eight persons apiece to serve on this committee. A question was raised from the floor regarding the process whereby senators might be selected. President Newell’s response was to suggest that the Exec come up with the names.

Discussion ensued including the following: A question was raised regarding why professional staff would not be eligible to serve. President Newell’s response was that the role would consist of primarily overseeing academic matters. Additional questions were raised regarding whether volunteers would be permitted and about Graduate School representation. D. Applebaum proposed that there be a two step process:

1. Criteria be developed for member selection
2. Names be submitted that meet the qualifications of knowledge and background according to the criteria

The discussion was postponed due to the arrival of the President and Provost to address the Senate.

OPEN PERIOD:

President Farish and Provost Houshmand addressed the Senate by soliciting questions from the members.

Sanford Tweedie: What will be the impact of the budget situation on the Master Plan?

Answer: Initiatives hoped for will not happen; it is uncertain when there will be a bond issue to cover the necessary revenue. The president suggested that “Plan B” be considered; i.e.:

- The University is positioned to draw upon the interest every two years if necessary
- University College is being developed to generate revenue
- Donors

In summary, there is a plan with no immediate funds to finance it.

Elisabeth Hostetter: What is the status of the new building in Fine and Performing Arts within the Master Plan?

Answer: the President reviewed the history of the campus building plan. He stated that FPA was originally to have a wing of Wilson, but that was changed after the Engineering building construction with the unresolved issue of parking. Rowan then hired another consultant (Suzaki) to address the parking issue. His promise to the Theater Department is that, given the small size of the department, we may need to figure out how to do this within the priorities. There will be open sessions to further discuss priorities.

Anne Phillips raise a question related to the issue of non-salary payment that is or is not allowed (i.e. - book royalties, exam copies, etc.)

Answer: The President responded that there is a huge problem of conflict of interest with the University’s boards. He has been working with the Attorney General’s office to change the policy which has offended half of the Board of Trustees. The new plan has problematic language.

Skeffington Thomas raised a concern regarding the ongoing problem of upkeep of facilities particularly after the Homecoming. He expressed specific concern about the lack of cleaning be scheduled in a timely fashion.

Answer: The President noted that there was a “major screw up” over the past weekend. He agreed that maintenance should have been anticipated and scheduled and stated the he is looking into this problem.

Jay Chaskes, regarding PACE (University College), questioned the extent to which research will be emphasized in the future with the Provost. He noted that we will have to decide who we will be and he was wondering when we will do this.

Answer: The President stated that we all need to be on the same page. His personal view is that research is both necessary and fun; consequently there should be adjusted time for it. He also stated that making it mandatory takes away this original intent and that it is not his job to impose research.

Response by J. Chaskes: The concern is not just about research, but also to address the larger issue of whom we aspire to be, particularly in what we tell newer faculty.

Response by President: A universal sense of purpose needs to be articulated; he’ll gladly assemble a panel including of some of administration due to a necessity to report to the Board. Their mission: to define how Rowan is different from other institutions.- i.e. predestination, not randomness.

Question for the Provost: Jim Newell questioned that given the finite pool of adjuncts, how do we comfort departments who are at their limits as to their participation in the university college?

Provost's answer: Quality and choice are both important in that no unit will be forced to participate. He will provide the resources and supplement operating budgets. We need to be more aggressive in recruiting adjuncts providing more incentives to work at Rowan. End of Open Period.

President Newell resumed the discussion of the Provost's proposed oversight committee by suggesting that the Senate return to the issue of its structure later. He acknowledged that if professional staff matters will be discussed, then professional staff should be represented. He also noted that there would need to be further discussion of size and composition.

PROMOTION- Current chair, Kathy Ganske, and past chair, Sandy Tweedie, met with Nick Diobildo and Phil Lewis, representing the AFT, to discuss proposed changes to the Memorandum of Agreement. The discussion did not mean implementation of any changes. The promotion deadline to sign-up for intent to apply has been extended to November 3rd. Folders are due on January 5, 2007. The checklist has also been changed. Promotion information will be available on the Provost's website.

Colleges have the option to adopt their own system with AFT and Administration input. A proposed change to departmental representation to include tenured assistant professors as an option was discussed. Making sure that multiple departments are represented, with a preference for full and associate professors, then including tenured assistant professors as needed was recommended.

The only files that would be reviewed would be:

- Those with discrepancies of votes
- Those that have a uniform, but negative vote
- Those with disagreement votes- i.e., abstentions or negative, but passed.

A concern was raised regarding the start-up date of March 2nd, finishing by March 30th due to the need for meetings in March to address questionable files while working around Spring Break.

A clarification was requested regarding whether or not an LAS person is to be added; this will be referred to Phil Lewis for an answer.

A question was raised from the floor regarding where the need for changes originated.

The answer was that the union felt they were needed due to lack of adjusted time for the chair and the need to reduce the number of files to be reviewed.

MASTER PLAN: S.Tweedie - According to the chair, the committee will take two weeks to review with the report with open sessions for feedback. A report will go to Suzaki by December; therefore, the meetings will take place in late November.

A 60 million dollar bond was passed by the Board to begin to implement some of Suzaki's suggestions and deferred maintenance.

A 6' x 4' 3-D model of Rowan Blvd. and the Master Plan is completed and can be found outside of the President's office, Bole Hall.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS: K. Siefring- The current version of the Constitution and By-laws revisions which have been four years in the making will be sent out to be reviewed within departments for a final vote. There has been a major change in order to add more voices to the Senate. The Senate will have to decide what it needs to be. The document does not have to vote on in its entirety. If the Senate moves this forward, it will have to be voted on by all of its eligible constituencies. The final step will be to forward it to the Board of Trustees.

President Newell stated that he has decided to move this forward this year and that the time frame will depend upon the process including debate.

SABBATICAL LEAVE: F. Johnson- On November 13, 2006, the Sabbatical Leave folders are due. They will provide for three semesters and there are 23 possible spots available.

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES: D. Gilchrist- Chair moved the resignation of Winnie Still Davis simultaneously with her replacement of Gabrielle Lisella ; she also moved Tara Timberman to be placed on the World Education Council; both motions passed unanimously.

RESEARCH- Jay Kuder's office would like to make requirements available to faculty and students who are involved in doing research. He expressed concern about a lack of venue for presenting scholarly activities. A discussion ensued regarding former role of the Faculty Center in holding conferences for the presentation of SBR research which included presenting certificates for scholarship. According to F. Johnson, attendance was problematic with presenters failing to even pick up their awards. She suggested that a discussion with Jay Kuder take place regarding a format for the presentation of research and suggested that it may be impeded by there being no requirement that recipients present as there was in the past.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Diversity Committee: Anne Phillips, presented a report of its activities and findings with a brief period of question and answers. The Diversity Task Force submitted its report on 5/22/06. One of its recommendations was the formation of a Senate Committee.

- A, Phillips referred to the on-line survey and its analysis
- A. Phillips reviewed the findings of the Task Force.
- A. Phillips proposed a Senate standing committee, suggesting the nature of the committee's mission and later added the motion for a Chair to be considered. Any language comments can be forwarded to A. Phillips to be considered as friendly amendments. The resolution is appended.

Note: The 300 page report can be found in its entirety on the Provost's website.
Approximately 2/3 of the report is appendices.

A question was raised regarding the status of the Holly Bush event planned for the 40th Anniversary in June of 2007. President Newell has asked Afrodesia McCannon to represent him at the meetings which are chaired by Maia Farish. The President was to meet with President Newell to extend the membership involved in the planning.

Motion to Adjourn at 12:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Mallory Church
Senate Secretary