

FACULTY SENATE
Minutes of Meeting
December 16, 2003

Chairperson Brower called the meeting to order.

Senators present: A. Stierle, Brower, Solko, Leland, MacLaughlin, James. Absent: Melvin, J. Metesh, Mitman, Todd.

Others present: Chancellor Gilmore.

It was confirmed that the minutes of the last meeting were approved and posted in the Senate's public folder. The secretary requested that a prompt response to the draft of today's meeting be done so that minutes might be posted prior to the Christmas break.

The Committee on Student Evaluation of Course Instruction has not met since the last meeting of the Senate. It's a very busy time of the semester, and the committee decided to postpone any further meetings. VCAA/R Patton is arranging for Dr. Ed Nupher, Idaho State University, to visit the Tech campus early next semester to present a workshop on formative evaluations.

Brower reported on the Board of Regents meeting. He reminded the group that the agendas and minutes of meetings are available on the Commissioner's Website. He noted that Regent Mercer has requested assessment of the quality of education of the units of the MUS. Chancellor Gilmore was asked to detail any more information he could about the quality issue. The Chancellor said that the committee that was to be formed was to define quality and produce a way in which to measure it. Several benchmarking methods are already available -- graduation rates, placement rates, etc. A question was raised about accrediting bodies already doing quality assessment. It was the consensus of the Senate that Regent Mercer is likely concerned about the presentation to the Legislature and wants data to support his requests. Regent Mercer is also talking about a campaign to educate the populace about the benefits of and the need for higher education and the importance of financial support. He is also interested in the creation of a handbook intended for public distribution on how the state's economy works, as another needed and useful service that the University system could provide.

The discussion moved on to the handbook changes proposed by the Deans Council. Changes were taken in the order in which they appeared in the mark-up document. Pros and cons of changes were examined. Because of the shortness of time, the document was not reviewed in its entirety. Discussion will continue at the first Senate meeting of the spring semester.

A concern had been raised by one of the Senators about advisors being assigned the duty of checking the fall semester grades of all of their advisees to identify any student who failed a math course and consequently needs to repeat rather than continue on in the sequence. It seems that some miscommunication took place. Prerequisite checking is an administrative activity. However, advisors should be diligent in reviewing students' course accomplishments to see that they are in the appropriate courses.

Brower requested that each Senator send him a copy of his/her schedule for the upcoming semester so that a meeting time and date might be established. There is a chance that a Thursday morning schedule will work.

A motion was made to adjourn. Motion was seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise E. Solko
Secretary