

**Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 18, 2004**  
**SC 214, 9 a.m.**

Senators Present: Virginia Purtle, Lori Underwood, Michelle Vachris, Gary Whiting, Quentin Kidd, Thomas Berry, Rebecca Wheeler, Don Hicks, Harold Grau, Dave Doughty, Walter Wymer, Kelly Cartwright, Pete Knipp, Cathy Doyle

Senators absent: Schwarze (excused)

Visitors Present: Tim Marshall

President Purtle called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**President's Report:** The Board of Visitors tabled the motion on sexual orientation. The SGA is expected to return to the issue again this year.

The pre-planning retreat was intense and reflected in the President's speech on Monday. The emphasis this year will be on academic topics, including retention, the development of international exchange programs and graduate school admissions.

A discussion of issues involved in retention followed. Senator Doughty noted that this year's class showed a decline in the number of IB and Advanced Studies high school degrees presented. He also noted that much of our problem is centered at the sophomore/junior level, as our freshmen retention rate is in line with our competitors. President Purtle noted that retention at this level had not been studied extensively in the literature. Admissions material will be re-worked to promote academic issues, rather than our proximity to Virginia Beach.

Freshman will be allowed to bring cars to campus after Fall Break. Freshman GPAs did not improve last fall.

*Committee Appointments:*

Senate Liaisons: (for one year ex-officio appointments):

Administrative and Professional Faculty Peer Review: Michelle Vachris  
Colloquia Committee: Kelly Cartwright  
Leadership: Lori Underwood  
Student Assessment: Harold Grau  
Academic Program Review: Rebecca Wheeler  
Admissions: Walter Wymer

Board of Visitor Representatives:

Academic Affairs: Rebecca Wheeler

Student Affairs: Gary Whiting  
Financial: Quentin Kidd  
Development: Virginia Purtle

### **Deadlines for Faculty Development Grants for Fall Semester**

Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>—proposals to Deans  
Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>—proposals to Senate  
Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>—proposals to Provost

The committee this year will include: Gary Whiting (chair), Michelle Vachris, Tom Berry and Tracey Schwarze.

Compensation for Study Abroad Activities of Faculty and Other Special Duties: Quentin Kidd (chair), Lori Underwood and other faculty to be assigned

Handbook Faculty Governance Review: Lori Underwood (chair), Harold Grau, Kelly Cartwright, Peter Knipp, Cathy Doyle, Walter Wymer, Virginia Purtle and other faculty to be assigned.

Tracey Schwarze's idea of an academic calendar has been implemented by Denise Moclair and faculty meetings for the year have been scheduled. This will be online soon. Thanks to Tracey for this suggestion.

Committee elections will be held prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> this year. An effort needs to be made this year to improve the number of nominations for mail ballots since there is no opportunity to nominate from the floor during this process. We need to have the maximum amount of opportunity to allow people to be placed on the ballot.

### **Status of Resolutions from last year:**

Textbook Royalties (2003-2004:11) recommitted for further work  
Access to Buildings After Hours (Marshall)  
Time in Rank for Associate to Full Professor (Wheeler)  
Policy guidelines for outside consulting (Wheeler)

The last two items will have reports by the middle of October.

**Senate webpage update:** Walter Wymer will undertake this task, with assistance from Peter Knipp. A desire to have the webpage in a more prominent position was expressed by many faculty, who have trouble finding the page. This will be investigated.

President Purtle noted that the minutes of meetings may not be placed on the webpage until they are approved. We might try approving the minutes by email this year and distributing them to department secretaries for placement in faculty members' mailboxes.

A closed section in WebCT for the senate might also help facilitate discussion on issues.

**Provost's Response to Task Force Recommendations:** President Purtle distributed copies of a memo from the Provost on the Senate's recommendations. While the majority of them were approved, students will still be required to take a foreign language even if they present IB or AP credit. Senator Doughty asked why a student could place out of mathematics but not a foreign language. Senators Doughty and Cartwright and President Purtle will meet with the Provost to discuss this issue.

Numbers 10/11 on the memo were referred to the Liberal Learning Council for discussion. These items taken together seem to prevent the Liberal Learning Emphasis from being expanded into a minor. Was this really the Task Force's intent?

It was noted that the Provost appreciated Senator Schwarze's notes on the Senate meetings last year which enabled him to gain a clear understanding of our work on this topic.

A resolution was introduced by Senator Wymer:

**RESOLUTION TO SCHEDULE SPRING BREAK  
TO COINCIDE WITH LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**WHEREAS**, most state public schools (primary and secondary) schedule their spring breaks in April instead of March; and

**WHEREAS**, having CNU's spring break coincide with the public school system would allow students and CNU employees with family members in public schools to have spring break together, and

**WHEREAS**, having spring break scheduled approximately one month later would allow students and CNU employees to have their spring break during warmer weather; and

**WHEREAS**, having spring break nearer the end of the spring semester instead of the middle of the semester would allow students to work earnestly on project/paper completions and final exam preparations;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the faculty senate recommends to our administration that it adjust the academic calendar so that CNU's spring break will coincide with that of the Peninsula public school systems.

Senator Wymer noted that students have told him that they don't want spring break scheduled so early in the year and want to prepare for the end of the semester. It was noted that most school systems schedule their spring break around Easter, which is a moving target. In some years we would have spring break a week or two before final exams.

**Sabbatical Policy Committee:** Two committees need to be appointed. One will recommend approval of sabbaticals; the other will look into changes to the current sabbatical policy, including the recommendations of Professor E. Duskin. The sabbatical evaluation committee will consist of: Lori Underwood (chair), Harold Grau, Tom Berry, and Don Hicks. A committee to work on the policy review will be appointed later.

**Advising:** Freshman will be automatically assigned a schedule for the fall with few if any options. There will be less need for advising, but a need to stay in touch with students. Our advising process needs to be adjusted to take this fact into account and see how advising might make a contribution to the retention issue. Senate members will include Walter Wymer and Peter Knipp, other faculty members will be appointed.

**Retention:** This committee will include Dave Doughty, Walter Wymer, Tracey Schwarze and other faculty members to be appointed at a later date.

**SOB reorganization:** Rumors have been circulating over the summer about the proposed re-organization of the School of Business and senators expressed concern that our current governance document would not cover the changes proposed. A committee will be formed to examine the impact of organizational changes in the school of business. Senators Wheeler and Knipp will co-chair the committee.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Doyle