**Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting**

March 20, 2014

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**I. Call to order**

Chair Ed Corwin called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM.

**II. Roll call**

Senators present: Drs. David Boyles, Robert Corey, William Cross, Marius Ellingsen, Thomas Fontaine, Adam French, Patrick Gilcrease (late arrival), Jason Henry, Travis Kowalski, Timothy Masterlark, Frank Matejcik, Charles Tolle, Purushotham PT Tukkaraja, and Frank Van Nuys.

Also attending: Drs. Scott Amos, Sangchul Bang, and Doug Wells.

**III. Approval of agenda**

The agenda was approved.

**IV. Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the February 20, 2014 meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved.

**V. Report from the Chair**

1. Regarding his meeting with President Wilson, Dr. Corwin reported that she is willing to attend the April Senate meeting. A motion to issue a formal invitation to the President was approved unanimously. In other news, plans for a new Research Building have been deferred, but there is possible funding for a new Energy Research Center. The university’s BOR loan is due to be paid off over the next 3 years; consequently, some faculty positions will remain unfulfilled, while others may be cut.
2. Regarding his meeting with Provost Hrncir, Dr. Corwin reports that several searches are ongoing (VP Research), under way (VP Finance), restarting (Athletic Director), and getting ready (Provost, who will be retiring in the next year). Statewide, committees are rejecting StraighterLine.

**VI. Committee reports**

* The Nominating Committee reported they had a list for candidates for Chair of the Faculty, which would be announced at the upcoming Generating Faculty Meeting.
* The remaining standing committees had nothing to report.

**VII. New business**

1. *Curriculum requests.* Acting on behalf of the Curriculum Committee, Dr. Cross presented the February curricular requests, indicating three that the committee felt warranted discussion:
	* *Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering*. Drs. Amos and Bang presented the proposed program to the Senate. It is a degree offered in conjunction with SDSU (which will offer a Ph.D. in just Civil Engineering), and will incorporate some shared courses using campus-to-campus technology. The motion to approve the program passed unanimously.
	* *New course CSC 170*. Dr. Corwin discussed the new computer science course, geared specifically to engineers and scientists using the language C; CSC 150 (using C++) would remain the default course for computer science and computer engineering. Some Senators expressed concern with the curriculum ramifications of the change; for example, would CSC 170 work as a replacement for a Math 150 pre-requisite? Dr. Corwin suggested that the short-term answer would be “*Yes, it would*”. After further discussion, the motion to approve the course passed.
	* *Tabled Applied Biological Sciences emphasis.* The Senate discussed again the (previously tabled) ABS proposal to offer a Biomedical Engineering (BME) emphasis area. The CBE department had objected to the proposal on several grounds, including (1) wording that might erroneously lead a student to believe a BME emphasis would qualify him/her to work in bioprocessing or bioenergy and (2) while chemical engineering plays a major role in biochemistry and bioengineering, but the BME emphasis has no CBE courses. A counter-argument to (2) is that the ABS program offers a *science* degree rather than an *engineering* one, and claims only to offer an *emphasis* rather than a *preparation*; moreover, there always exists the opportunity to modify the required courses in the future if needed. The motion to approve the emphasis area passed with 12 votes in favor, and 1 abstention.

After the discussion of these three requests, the motion to approve all remaining March curriculum requests passed unanimously.

1. *CGE review*. Dr. Wells, representing CGE, brought forward an issue to the Senate regarding the catalog policy on Ph.D. credit hours, specifically, that 6 Ph.D. programs (including the recently approved Physics doctorate) violate the minimum credit hours described in the catalog (namely, 80 credits, 50 of which come from courses). According to Dr. Wells, there is no official BOR policy on this; moreover, according to Provost Hrncir, the catalog indicates a “standard” rather than a “policy” on this matter. To this end, Dr. Wells wrote a white paper proposing a 72 credit minimum (with a minimum of 36 credits from courses and a minimum of 36 credits from research), to both bring all current SDSMT Ph.D. programs in compliance (“truth in advertising”) and bring SDSMT in line with similar institutions, and brought it to the Senate for a vote; it also would become a criterion against which CGE would vet future programs. A motion to change the catalog copy to note the minimum 36/36 credits (as of August 2014) was passed unanimously. The more general question of whether or not the Senate should vote on CGE-made policy remained unanswered, although it was suggested that the issue be sent to the Academic Affairs Committee for further investigation.
2. *Honorary degree for commencement speaker***.** Glenn Kellow, the President and COO of Peabody Energy, has been selected as the Commencement Speaker. The motion to honor Mr. Kellow with an “honorary doctorate of science” passed unanimously.
3. *Emeritus status for Colin Patterson.* The motion to grant emeritus status for Colin Patterson passed unanimously.
4. *Correction regarding BOR Regulation 45*. A motion to include in the minutes the fact that BOR Regulation 45 pertains to the *destruction* of committee records rather than the requirement to keep them passed unanimously.
5. *Other business*. There is a request to discuss Final Exam policies at the next Senate meeting; information is welcomed. On the parking front, next year there will be only blue and gold permits (with an increased number of blue spots). Finally, topics for the General Faculty Meeting were suggested, including GenEd and emeritus status.

**VII. Old Business**

* There was no old business discussed.

**VII. Adjournment**

The Senate adjourned at 12:25 PM.