



THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

THE SENATE RECORD

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The Senate Record is the official publication of the University Faculty Senate of The Pennsylvania State University, as provided for in Article I, Section 9 of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and contained in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules of the University Faculty Senate*, The Pennsylvania State University, 2007-2008.

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Except for items specified in the applicable Standing Rules, decisions on the responsibility for inclusion of matters in the publication are those of the Chair of the University Faculty Senate.

When existing communication channels seem insufficient, Senators are encouraged to submit brief letters relevant to the Senate's function as a legislative, advisory and forensic body to the Chair for possible inclusion in The Senate Record.

Reports that have appeared in the Agenda for the meeting are not included in The Senate Record unless they have been changed substantially during the meeting, or are considered to be of major importance. Remarks and discussions are abbreviated in most instances. Every Senate meeting is Webcast via Mediasite Live and may be viewed at <http://senate.psu.edu/agenda/index.html>. All Senate meetings are digitally audio taped and on file in the Senate office. Transcriptions of portions of the Senate meeting are available upon request.

Individuals with questions may contact Dr. Susan C. Youtz, Executive Secretary, University Faculty Senate.

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The University Faculty Senate
Tuesday, April 29, 2008, at 1:30 PM

The University Faculty Senate met on Tuesday, April 29, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in room 112 Kern Graduate Building with Dawn Blasko, Chair, presiding.

MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETING

Chair Blasko: The March 18, 2008, Senate Record, providing a full transcription of the proceedings, was sent to all University Libraries and is posted on the Faculty Senate Web site. Are there any corrections or additions to this document? May I hear a motion to accept?

Senators: So moved.

Chair Blasko: Second?

Senators: Second.

Chair Blasko: All in favor of accepting the minutes please say aye.

Senators: Aye.

Chair Blasko: Opposed say nay. The ayes have it, motion carried. The minutes have been approved.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE SENATE

The Senate Curriculum Report of April 15, 2008, is posted on the University Faculty Senate Web site.

REPORT OF SENATE COUNCIL – Meeting of April 15, 2008

Enclosed in today's agenda are the minutes from the April 15 meeting of Senate Council found at the end of your agenda. Included in the minutes were topics that were discussed by the Faculty Advisory Committee to the President at the April 15 meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Chair Blasko: Out of courtesy to our presenters, please turn off your cell phones and pagers at this time. I realize that this will be a lengthy meeting, but out of respect for the hard work of your colleagues who have been working on these reports all year, and for our presenters who are kind enough to come here and speak to the Senate, I would ask you to stay throughout the meeting if at all possible.

At this time I would like to ask Roger Egolf, Chair of the Student Life Committee, to come forward and introduce the John W. White Fellowship recipients.

Roger Egolf, Lehigh Valley: Thank you Dawn. Each year, the Senate Committee on Student Life recognizes outstanding undergraduate students who are graduating with highest distinction and who plan to enroll in graduate study. This year, there are four recipients of the John W. White Graduate Fellowship. Each student will receive a \$1,000 award. The John White Fellowship is one of the oldest continuing fellowships at Penn State. The award was established in 1902 by James Gilbert White to honor his father, Reverend John W. White of Milroy, Pennsylvania.

In addition to myself, serving on this year's review committee were:

- Margaret Brittingham-Brant, Agricultural Sciences
- Patricia Hinchey, Penn State Worthington Scranton

I am pleased to introduce two of this year's Fellowship recipients:

Allison Gabriel will graduate as a Schreyer Scholar with a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Sociology. She will be attending the University of Akron in a combined masters and doctoral program in Industrial and Organizational Psychology. Allison chaired a Dance Marathon committee, served as president of the Oriana Singers, was a volunteer coordinator for the HIV/AIDS Risk Reduction Advisory Council and served as a Lion Ambassador.

Tara Saunders will graduate as a Schreyer Scholar with two B.A. degrees, one in history and the other in comparative literature and a minor in Spanish. Tara will be attending graduate school pursuing a Ph.D. in history. She has been accepted at several universities including Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Pittsburgh, and Rutgers. She is interested in women's history and has done an archival internship with the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Tara is active with the Spanish Club and Three Broomsticks (the Harry Potter Club).

Brian Finkelman and Vincent Viscomi are the other two award recipients and they were not able to join us today.

Join me in congratulating these outstanding students!

Chair Blasko: At the end of each academic year, a number of Senators complete their terms of office. Please stand if you will not be returning to the Senate next year. We appreciate all that you have contributed to the Senate and we will miss each one of you. Their names are posted on the Senate Web site. Let's show our thanks to these Senators for their good work.

Now I would like to offer special recognition to seven senators who are leaving us with distinguished records of service. As they come forward, I will present them with a certificate signed by President Spanier and myself acknowledging their dedicated service to the Senate. Please come forward when I read your name.

Deborah Atwater. Deborah has served for eight years as a Liberal Arts senator and has served for three years as vice-chair of the Senate Committee on Admissions, Records, Scheduling, and Student Aid.

Lynn Carpenter. Lynn has served for sixteen years as an Engineering senator and has served for three as the vice-chair of Curricular Affairs.

JoAnn Chirico. JoAnn has served as a Penn State Beaver senator for six years. She served three years as chair of Admissions, Records, Scheduling, and Student Aid and two years as chair of the newly formed committee on Educational Equity and Campus Environment. JoAnn also lead the charge for our new Senate scholarships.

Daniel Hagen. Dan has served for eight years as an Agricultural Sciences senator. He served for two years as chair and one year as vice-chair of the University Planning Committee. He is now serving on the University Strategic Planning Committee.

Martin Pietrucha. Martin has served for eight years as an Engineering senator and served four years as chair of Intercollegiate Athletics.

David Richards. Dave has served for ten years as a Penn State Hazleton senator. He served for two years as chair of the Intra-University Relations Committee, and one year each as chair and vice-chair of the Outreach Committee.

Brian Tormey. Brian has served for twenty-two years as an Altoona senator. He served eleven years on Senate Council, four years as an elected member of Committees and Rules, and one year as vice-chair of University Planning. Brian will be retiring this year.

Thank you all for your service and dedication to the Senate.

I would like to recognize the Senate committee chairs and vice-chairs. Will you please stand. This group of individuals has provided leadership to the Senate this year. Without these dedicated men and women the work of the Senate could not be accomplished. Please join me in thanking them.

We all know that the Senate work would come to a halt without the leadership of Executive Secretary, Susan Youtz and all of the work of the Senate office staff. Let's thank Susan, Patty Poorman, Sherry Walk, Kadi Corter, Anna Butler, and Amy Shilling for all of their hard work.

I want to acknowledge Dennis Breon of Media & Technology Services for his work on Mediasite Live and for providing technology support at the Senate meetings. I also want to acknowledge David Test and the staff from Teaching & Learning Technology who have provided training and support of the Personal Response System which we know as the "clickers." We appreciate the Senators' cooperation with the use of this new technology. Thank you.

Finally, I want to thank all of you senators for your willingness to serve our University and for your hard work in the committees you serve. It takes your time, dedication and expertise for the Senate body to successfully complete its work. Thank you.

President Spanier has approved the following reports from the March 18 Senate meeting: from Undergraduate Education, "Revisions to Senate Policy 14-10, Limitations to Enrollment as a Nondegree Student" and from Outreach, "Recommendations for Documenting and Disseminating Outreach and Engaged Scholarship: Achieving the Promise of the UniSCOPE Report." President Spanier has charged the Vice President for Outreach to implement these recommendations. President Spanier's letter can be found on the Outreach Committee Web site.

At the back of the auditorium is a flier announcing a DUS conference on academic advising September 11 and 12 at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel. The theme of the conference is "What do we know about academic advising--Theory, research, and practice?" The Senate is pleased to join the Division of Undergraduate Studies and the Office of Undergraduate Education in sponsoring this meeting. I want to encourage you to consider attending part or all of this meeting. If you have questions about the meeting or registration, contact Eric White, Executive Director of DUS, at erw2@psu.edu.

A joint Senate-Administrative taskforce will soon be charged to assess Penn State's current policies and practices regarding faculty and University interests in, and rights to, the intellectual property that is created in the instructional realm. I am pleased that John Nichols, past Senate Chair and currently Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research in the College of Communications, has agreed to chair this taskforce. You will hear more about the work of this taskforce next year.

The Senate is helping to coordinate another meeting of campus faculty governance leaders at the Schuylkill Campus this August. If you are from University Park and feel that a similar meeting of college faculty governance leaders would be valuable to you, contact the Senate office.

I am pleased to announce that the Faculty Trustee Scholarship Endowment has reached the level of \$54,000 in total pledges and cash gifts received to date. By surpassing the \$50,000 threshold we now have adequate pledge commitments from Faculty Senate members who are supporting this initiative to endow this important Trustee Matching Scholarship. The majority of those who are supporting this Faculty Senate Trustee Scholarship are doing so by pledging funds on a monthly basis through payroll deduction. We are especially pleased with the leadership of ten members of Faculty Senate who have decided to make a pledge of \$1,000 or greater toward the scholarship.

In fact, we have four pledges in the range of \$1,000 - \$2,000; two pledges in the range of \$3,000 - \$4,000; three pledges at \$5,000; and one pledge of \$25,000 toward this scholarship.

We strongly encourage each of the current Senate members and future senators to make a gift or multi-year pledge of support to this scholarship endowment. Keeping a Penn State education affordable for families of modest means by increasing scholarship support is the top priority of the new campaign, *For the Future: The Campaign For Penn State Students*, and it gives me a great sense of joy to know that we have indeed endowed this scholarship but also to know that we will have an increasing number of members of the Faculty Senate of Penn State who will support this cause in 2008, 2009, and beyond.

Anyone wishing to support this effort may obtain the appropriate forms either through the Faculty Senate office or by contacting Ed Thompson in the Development office to coordinate your gift or pledge. Ed can be reached at edthompson@psu.edu or 865-7698.

The Senate is currently faced with a situation where the six units with fewer than four senators (Communications; Dickinson School of Law; Great Valley; Information, Sciences, and Technology; Libraries; and Military Science) have been unable to nominate and elect a

representative to Senate Council for 2008-2009. Some of these units are reluctant to relinquish their representation on such Senate Committees as Curricular Affairs, Faculty Affairs, and Intra-University Relations.

To help address this situation, the Senate Committee on Committees and Rules moves that in this particular case, there be an exception made to the Senate Standing Rules, Article II, Section 3, that precludes a Senator from serving on both a standing committee and Senate Council. Approval of this motion for an exception to the rules takes a 2/3 vote of those Senators present.

Senators should have received a clicker for voting. Raise your hand if you need a clicker.

Please turn your clicker on. The screen will read "finding class SENATE."

You should see the letters ANS on your screen. Are we ready to vote? To accept the motion, press the letter A and the enter key. To reject the motion, press the letter B and enter.

The motion passes, 158 in favor. Thank you very much.

The Senate will report the name of the new Senate Councilor at the September 9 Senate meeting.

COMMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

President Spanier commented on the following topics:

- Acknowledged the Senate for endowing the Faculty Trustee Scholarship;
- Reviewed the on-going work of the University Strategic Planning Council;
- Described the "regrettable situation" of the April 15 arrest of 31 students who refused to leave; Old Main after it closed at the end of the day;
- Encouraged faculty participation in spring 2008 commencement ceremonies.

President Spanier responded to questions about the following topics:

- Asked about willingness to have charges reduced to summary offenses for the anti-sweatshop student protestors;
- Commented on the University's Computer Scanning Initiative currently being pilot tested in the College of Engineering;
- Received a question from a campus senator about the Nittany Lion Inn and Penn Stater's recently implemented 48 hour cancellation policy.

FORENSIC BUSINESS - NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

Report of the Ad Hoc First-Year Seminar Committee

Robin Bower, Chair

Chair Blasko: The first report is from Undergraduate Education and the Ad Hoc First-Year Seminar Committee. It appears on today's agenda as Appendix B. As you know, the committee has been working for a year on this report and the Senate leadership is very appreciative of their efforts. In order to have a full discussion and respect the time of our senators, I would ask that you confine your comments as much as possible to issues that have not already been raised in the discussion. I will attempt to recognize as many different people as possible.

FYS Committee Co-Chairs Patti Mills and Kim Steiner will present this report and respond to questions. Other members of the committee who are not senators but were on the First-Year Seminar Committee may have the privilege of the floor to make comments as well.

Kim Steiner, Agricultural Sciences: Even having served as Chair of the Senate, I have to tell you this; it can be a little stressful to stand down here and present legislation to the Senate. With an FYS proposal on the floor today, it feels like climbing up to a roof during a thunderstorm. We've already been warned that there may be some bolts out of the blue. That warning came from God, otherwise known as Susan Youtz.

The legislation today addresses the FYS requirement, a requirement that's been argued over and discussed in the Senate probably more than any other issue over the last ten years, if you count committee time. There are dozens of pages of Senate Records devoted to this particular topic since 1997. Some faculty like the requirement, some don't. Some administrators like it; some feel it's a burden. But probably more importantly, some students like it, and some do not. Many students have had disagreeable experiences with their FYS, and it's not uncommon for students to list their FYS course as being among their least favorite as they graduate from Penn State. That outcome is particularly disturbing because it's quite at odds with the original intent of the FYS legislation, which was to foster student engagement.

Most of you were present here in this room in January of 2007 when the Senate came within four votes out of 150 of simply dropping the requirement, and that measure probably failed only because an alternative motion was waiting in the wings, one that created our committee as a final attempt to find a solution. I want you to think about the fact that in January of 2007 very nearly half of the Senate was prepared right then to do away with FYS without any further investigation of a solution. I think that brings home the sorry state of affairs we have been in with this requirement.

After a year of hard work, Patti and I on behalf of our committee are returning to you with a recommendation. Before I describe that recommendation, I want to point out that if the recommendation fails on a vote of the Senate, we will then move to abolish the FYS General Education requirement. This, in effect, is a mirror image of the actions that were before the Senate in January of 2007. Basically what we propose to do is close the loop that was opened up a year ago, and if necessary return to the question that was before us in January of last year.

Now it's an "if then" proposition, not an "either or". It is still possible that we will reject both motions and retain the status quo. In other words, there are three possible outcomes to these actions. In sequence, they are 1) that we accept the recommendation that is in the report, in your agenda, 2) if we reject it, that we then vote to eliminate FYS as a General Education requirement, and 3) failing that, we preserve the status quo and retain exactly the requirement that we have now. I personally feel that the last outcome is a little doubtful, given the strength of feeling that is around the requirement and how much opposition has been voiced to it in the past.

The cornerstone of our proposal is the need to return to basic principles. These are the reaffirmation of the goals and objectives of student engagement that FYS was originally intended to address. These are listed in our report. They are lifted right out of the 2007 October Senate agenda. Those goals and objectives were never questioned in all of those dozens of pages of Senate discussions. I think what's happened is that as we've implemented FYS and made the requirement a routine part of our curricula, those goals and objectives have been largely forgotten, if not perhaps ignored. Approval of our recommendation would amount to recommitting to those ideas.

So, what's the recommendation? In a nutshell it's this: that Senate approval of our proposal would eliminate FYS as a General Education requirement in favor of a mandate that each college and campus prepare a written and published plan for achieving the goals and objectives of first-year engagement through its curricula and other programs targeted at first-year students. Those plans, if the proposal is approved, would be subject to one-time peer review and approval, and they must include a description of how the success of the plans will eventually be assessed. It is also expected that the Senate itself will perform an assessment of implementation and effectiveness of this legislation in five years.

The rest of the recommendation consists of a mix of restrictions, stipulations, and in some cases recommended guidelines for the plans. The principal constraint that our recommendation imposes on the plans is that University Park colleges must include at least one credit of a first-year seminar that meets certain criteria, and a rationale for that difference is laid out in our report. Otherwise, plans may include other small-class experiences, special advising programs, intensive orientation experiences, special programs offered by Student Affairs, and other approaches depending on the ingenuity of the unit.

Our plan recognizes that the goals and objectives of first-year engagement are valid for the entire University, but it acknowledges that there appears to be no single model for achieving those ends that is appropriate or workable for all units.

We understand that some of you may be disappointed that we did not discover in our one-year exercise the magic formula for a perfect FYS General Education course. Actually, I am a little disappointed myself, and I'm sure Patti is too. But we're not surprised, and it shouldn't be surprising if you consider that one Senate committee or another has been actively engaged in trying to find a solution to FYS beginning in February 2003. That's five years beginning with a special Task Force appointed by Jan Jacobs and John Moore in February 2003, followed by three successive years of charges to the Undergraduate Education committee to find a solution, followed by the one year that we've spent on this. Based on this history and our own very hard work, I am

convinced that there is no such model, at least one that would pass the Senate with broad support, and that goal has been sort of critical to our deliberations: what can we come up with that won't merely pass by a small margin, but will pass by a large enough margin that we can put this issue to rest for a few more years.

Finally, I want to add that on behalf of the committee, Patti and I have consulted with a great many individuals and groups; we haven't been doing this just in a vacuum within our committee. The feedback from these individuals and groups has greatly informed our final recommendation. I just want to mention that in many cases we've met with these individuals or groups twice, or three times: the Senate officers in formal session, Provost Erickson, again, other than casual conversations (twice) Vice-President Pangborn (twice), Director of DUS Eric White, Vice-President for Student Affairs Vicky Triponey, the Provost's Academic Leadership Council, the Administrative Council on Undergraduate Education (twice), the Campus Academic Officers, the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Education (twice), the Academic Affairs Committee of University Park Undergraduate Association, the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments, and the Commonwealth Caucus of the Faculty Senate (three times). This proposal comes to you with the unanimous support of our committee and the unanimous support of the Committee on Undergraduate Education. With that preface, we'd like to take your questions.

Jamie Myers, Education: Kim, I think you minimize what you have done here. There are two components that are buried in this larger recommendation that I haven't heard people talking about sufficiently in the past few weeks. So, I don't think they are quite clear to everybody. One of those components is the suggestion that First-Year Seminars can be taught by regular faculty, not just standing faculty. That means fixed-term faculty who are regular full-time on multi-year appointments, or maybe one-year appointments year after year, can teach a first-year seminar. That's a big change from the old First-Year Seminar requirement. I'm understanding that requirement change correctly, right?

Kim Steiner: The wording is a little bit different Jamie. Actually, fixed-term one faculty could teach First-Year Seminars under the original implementation back in 1998.

Jamie Myers: The second item that is here was really difficult to understand, and I have spent a few days trying to figure it out. That is the drop of a General Education requirement in favor of a graduation requirement. Now if I can make some comparisons and try to illuminate this a little bit; it means that a First-Year Seminar course is not required. A course is not required for General Education credits. In other words, students don't have to take that extra course to fulfill General Education, and a lot of students were taking an extra course that didn't count for their major or anything else.

Kim Steiner: That is correct. We would be eliminating the First-Year Seminar as a General Education requirement.

Jamie Myers: As a course, as a General Education course; as a requirement, as a credit requirement, that means it is exactly the same as a W course, a US or an IL course. The Senate has decided Writing Across the Curriculum is important enough that some courses should be writing intensive. They decided that US and IL are important for some courses to be identified

and those are not extra courses. They are graduation requirements and this recommendation would make First-Year Seminar the same type of requirement.

Kim Steiner: I don't quite see it that way.

Jamie Myers: I think it is that way and I think that's what you are minimizing. I think that is a very important and beneficial change, because now a First-Year Seminar counts for something. It counts for a General Education credit or it counts for major credit. So it has utility for the students; it's not an extra course.

Kim Steiner: It would be that way under our proposal. We are asking that those colleges that must do an FYS, which are the University Park academic colleges, would include that as part of their college or major requirements. So it would be counted for something; it would be like a requirement to take a particular math course or an English course, or particular course within the major or college.

Jamie Myers: I think those two changes I just described are very important to understanding First-Year Seminar in a different way than what it has been in the past.

Kim Steiner: We are basically changing the paradigm.

Jamie Myers: The other merit is the engagement plans, which really asks us in each of our units to contextualize our entire efforts to engage first-year students and not just to funnel them into one little course that we give students. I think that is the strength and merit in your overall recommendation. I think you minimize what you came up with here. It's not a magic bullet, but I think it has some significant changes that I can support. But I can't support the entire thing. There is one item in there that leads me not to support it, and that item is that I really believe we are one University, geographically distributed. I cannot support any motion which would establish graduation requirements at one campus and not at all campuses. That's a principle that doesn't really have to do with First-Year Seminar. It just has to do with the fact that I don't think I want to support a situation where we get into creating different Penn State degrees because at one campus we have these requirements and at another one we have different requirements.

The item in your recommendation which specifies that University Park colleges must have a First-Year Seminar requirement; whereas other units do not have to have, or may choose to have and are not required to, is an item which I think is very problematic in terms of the scope of the entire curriculum at the University. We just spent how long trying to get prefixes to be the same across the entire University. We have committees looking at degrees, at majors, trying to get them to be more resonant with each other so students can move and change assignment easier and not run into new requirements when they move from University Park to Erie, for example. I think it works against a general belief and principle of the Senate.

Therefore, I'm going to move to change that overall part of your recommendation as an amendment. There are two ways to move, one is to give every unit an option, or to require every unit to have this requirement. Again, I think that you have changed the nature of the requirement sufficiently that it's not a burdensome requirement for any unit to have a small class that carries the S or the FY suffix and need the graduation requirement. In fact, most of these classes already

exist, so I don't think it's a resource issue in making this a requirement for all units. So I'm going to move to amend that this be a requirement for all units, not just University Park. I would need a second on that motion.

Senators: Second.

Kim Steiner: Jamie, the only thing I want to point out is that we need to be clear on what we're talking about here. These requirements, if this proposal is accepted, are not General Education requirements. What we're asking in our proposal is that every college at University Park, include in its own college and major requirements an FYS type of course. It's not a University designation with the only exception that we're suggesting that S suffix may remain for courses that are other General Education courses, and may need to have this particular designation for a section. FYS, under this proposal, would disappear as a University-wide idea; it would become a course requirement within each college. There is no reason after that to be thinking we only have one credit of FYS in our college, but those students in another college have to take three credits because they actually are a different course or curricular requirement. I want everybody to understand that. What Jamie is suggesting in his amendment is that we ask that to be the case for every non UP location as well.

Chair Blasko: Is there discussion on that amendment before we vote?

Cynthia Brewer, Earth & Mineral Sciences: I've been grilled on the Senate floor a number of times this year and last. I think during one of the most recent ones when we were voting on amendments to the Post Tenure Review report, Kim said equal is not always equitable, or something to that effect. I think they were wise words and we ended up changing the report I was defending. I would like to say that I do not support Jamie's amendment to the report. I think the committee has done a good job on that; equal is not equitable. Many of the campuses have excellent small courses of standard experiences already, and we don't need an equal rule imposed on all of the campuses to maintain one University.

Leonard Berkowitz, York: I agree with Cindy. You may recall that in January or whenever it was in 2007, I spoke passionately about getting rid of the First-Year Seminar requirement because I didn't believe there was any way that we could fix what I saw was broken. I was pleasantly surprised to find that I was wrong. I think the committee has found a way to fix it, but a key element of fixing it is to make sure that we address the solutions to the places where there are problems. When Rob Pangborn first presented the General Education report to the University Faculty Senate and spoke to the Commonwealth Caucus, he pointed out that the First-Year Seminar part of the recommendation was to address a problem at University Park. He said "you people at the campuses already do what we're trying to solve up here, so perhaps you could find a way not to really have to do anything." That didn't really work and that's what led to the problems of the First-Year Seminar and so many complaints from the campuses. For the first time we found a committee willing to say, "if there's a problem in one place and not in another then the solution belongs in that place and not in the other." That's what the First-Year Seminar part in this recommendation does. On the other hand, there is a University-wide issue and it has to do with engagement. That part of the report applies to everyone. I urge my colleagues to vote against the amendment and to continue our discussion of the full report as proposed.

Robin Bower, Beaver: I would like to weigh in also against the proposed amendment. It was, in fact, the inequities introduced by the equality of the First-Year Seminar requirement that kept the discussions and solutions bogged down in Undergraduate Education for nearly five years. I was on Undergraduate Education for three or four of those five years and that was the stumbling block. The issues at the campuses with respect to first-year students in offering first-year educational programs were vastly different from the issues faced with University Park faculty and University Park first-year students. I think that the proposal as we have it on the floor very cogently and eloquently, and elegantly as well, addresses a disparity, perhaps that's not the word I want, circumstances that are subtly different without dividing the University in any real way. As Len pointed out, the University-wide issue of engagement is equitably addressed, just not equivalently. Thank you.

Chair Blasko: We'll need to have a vote on whether we want to end the discussion.

All those in favor please say Aye.

Senators: Aye.

Chair Blasko: Opposed Nay.

Senators: Nay.

Chair Blasko: The ayes have it and we will vote on the amendment. Does everyone have their clickers? Let's see the amendment please. We're just voting on the amendment now; please press A to accept the amendment, press B to reject the amendment.

The amendment has been rejected by a vote of 53 in favor, 103 opposed. Let's move back to the main report. Other issues; is there other discussion?

Michael Anderson, Student Senator DUS: I wanted to express the opinion of the Faculty Senate Student Caucus. The majority of the opinion that we came to was similar to that of Dr. Myers. Much of the report is great. We were really pleased with a lot of the recommendations, especially the engagement plans. We thought that was a great idea, but the problem is there is too much here for us to support. Our issue is with the continuing requirement of some type of seminar course being taught in all the colleges at University Park. We had a resource issue with it. We felt that while the engagement plan was a good idea and we hope the Senate would continue to look into it; we would oppose this recommendation on the whole, and be in favor of the second recommendation to drop it as a University-wide requirement and look into other ways to engage first-year students.

Kim Steiner: I just want to reiterate something that is already in the report. We know that the challenge is there at all campuses; it's not just at University Park, but the particular obstacle is different among campuses. The particular obstacle at University Park is the anonymity of young freshmen on a very large campus that is an order of magnitude larger than any other campus in the system. It was that fact that finally encouraged our committee to come up with that particular provision of the proposal.

Chair Blasko: Any other comments or questions? I think we are ready to vote. All those in favor of the report, press A and enter. All those opposed, press B and enter.

The report passes; 105 in favor, 63 opposed.

Kim Steiner: We didn't get a chance to thank the rest of our committee, but most of them are here and they deserve a round of applause.

SENATE COMMITTEES ON ADMISSIONS, RECORDS, SCHEDULING, AND STUDENT
AID AND UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION
Revision to Senate Policy 47-70 Mid-Semester Evaluation
Lee Coraor, Chair

Chair Blasko: The next report is from Admissions, Records, Scheduling, and Student Aid and Undergraduate Education and appears on today's agenda as Appendix C.

Committee Chair Lee Coraor will present this report and respond to questions.

Lee Coraor, Engineering: Thank you, Dawn. This report resulted from a task force that was put together by Vice Presidents Pangborn and Romano. The task force took a look at migrating the Mid-Semester Evaluation process to a paperless system. They also evaluated whether the new system would fit into Senate policy. The new system will be rolled out and tested and all of you will be made aware of how it works. It's going to have a lot of the features of the current system. It will hopefully have greater flexibility to allow different units to adapt it to what they want to do. The Senate legislation that is before you proposes to change three things: one is to extend the data entry period for faculty to comment on their students' performance from the current six-week to a three to six- week period. This allows faculty that may take attendance to act if they see a student who has not shown up for class by the end of the third week of class. They can enter that data immediately and they can continue to do that up until the end of the sixth week. It also slightly changes and better defines the group of students that must be evaluated and it changes the name of the policy to something that the committee felt was a better name. Are there any questions?

Chair Blasko: If there are no questions, let's get ready to vote. If your clicker has fallen asleep press any key one time to awaken it. Please press A to accept the report, and B to reject the report.

The report passes 145 in favor to 9 opposed. Thank you.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES AND RULES
Revisions to Bylaws, Article II, Section 2 (b) (Senate Council)
Deidre Jago, Chair

Chair Blasko: The next report is from the Senate Committee on Committees and Rules and appears on today's agenda as Appendix D.

Because this report is a proposed amendment to the Bylaws, it was discussed at the March 18 meeting and will be voted on today. Committee Chair Deidre Jago will respond to questions.

Deidre Jago: Very simply, the legislation you have before you is to add one student senator to Senate Council. This would be an individual that would be able to have voting rights. Are there any questions?

Chair Blasko: Are there any questions or comments for Deidre? We are ready to vote. Please press the letter A to accept the report, and the enter key. Press the letter B to reject the report.

As a reminder, between votes leave your clickers on and they will go to sleep.

The report passes, 142 in favor.

Thank you Deidre.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT LIFE
Resolution on the Escalating Problem of Student Alcohol and Substance Abuse
Roger Egolf, Chair

Chair Blasko: The next report is a resolution from Student Life and appears on today's agenda as Appendix E.

Committee Chair Roger Egolf will present this resolution and respond to questions.

Roger Egolf, Lehigh Valley: This resolution is a follow-up to our informational report at the last Senate meeting. We have one small grammatical change. In part three, the second to the last line in therefore, be it resolved, number three. Change the word is to the word be, just to make it more grammatically correct. Are there any questions?

Dorothy Evensen, Education: At the last meeting when someone asked you if there was an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting on campus, you responded yes. I searched the Web and found no meetings listed; nor were there any links to the meetings that are available in town. I really think that it would be important for someone to research the Alcoholics Anonymous meetings at other campuses; meetings of various types. The fact that Penn State doesn't have a meeting is very serious and I think some statements concerning it should be included in this resolution.

Roger Egolf: We were told at one of our meetings that there was indeed a meeting on campus. Is there anyone present in the room who knows more about that? Basically, I am asking for someone that knows how it's organized; I am not asking for a member of the group.

JoAnn Chirico, Beaver: Those meetings can be found through the Health Center Web site.

Robin Bower, Beaver: Student Life could have no impact on starting or not starting an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. They are started by members of Alcoholics Anonymous according to perceived need.

Ralph Crivello, Student Senator for Engineering: First of all, I would like to commend the committee's work on this. I think the resolution gets the point across and identifies some key areas. First, acknowledging that drinking is not necessarily the problem, but problem drinking or

irresponsible drinking is the issue. Also, recognizing the third whereas clause that indeed a lot of the measures have been implemented at Penn State. There is no outcome-based assessment; we do not know how effective they are. You can ask any student, they haven't been effective. We are just throwing money at a problem and not getting any tangible solutions; I am glad the committee acknowledges that. I would also like to commend the committee on point four, which is to involve students and engage students, especially the student governments on formulating solutions to this problem which does affect the entire Penn State community. My question for the committee chair is did the committee deliberate on what is defined as problem drinking, to clarify what that term means?

Roger Egolf: We did not sit down and make a definition, but I think the feeling of the committee was problem drinking is drinking that causes problems for students, for the University, affects grades, affects the ability to stay as a student, or causes violence.

Chair Blasko: Are there any other comments or questions before we vote?

This report has been brought to the floor by committee and needs no second. This will be a voice vote.

All those in favor of this report, please say aye.

Senators: Aye.

Chair Blasko: Opposed nay. The ayes have it. The motion passes. The Senate has approved this resolution.

Thank you Roger.

ADVISORY/CONSULTATIVE REPORTS

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMPUTING AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Penn State Web Presence

Russell Scaduto, Chair

Chair Blasko: The next report is from Computing and Information Systems and appears on today's agenda as Appendix F. Committee Chair Russ Scaduto will present this report and respond to questions.

Russell Scaduto, Medicine: Good afternoon. It has been about a year of work by our committee and I'd like to thank them for all their effort on this report. The Penn State Web presence and the difficulty we have managing information through our Web has been mounting over the years. There was an initial 121 page report that was very insightful back in 2000 and very little of that report has been implemented to this date. I want to bring you back to what the situation was in the year 2000. We had the year 2000 crisis, worrying about the date change. You might remember how old that technology was. We haven't really done much to bring our Web presence up-to-date from that period forward. Nearly half of us were still on DOS. We were beginning to experiment

with Windows 95. There has been little incentive to centralize and support a unified approach to using the Web as an information resource and information management tool.

The committee presents five recommendations and I would like to have the recommendations voted together as one. There is one addition that we had in the committee meeting this morning and that would be in reference to the first recommendation on page three. The Web Review Committee actually was proposed with AD-54. It never really formed and met since that policy was put in place and we recommended that it would be formed and it would be active. I'd like to read that sentence, "the Web Review Committee should be composed of University administrators, faculty members, and one student representative who are charged with this oversight responsibility," I'd like to make that amendment. The first two recommendations are probably the most important, and that is to develop a plan through this Web Review Committee, a strategic plan; and to move the University towards a more structured content management solution system. This is already started on our campus; there are a lot of these systems in place running today. It actually is an economical move because there are more people who can offer Web content without a lot of administrative support. It's the right thing to do and it's the right time to do it. I'll stand for questions.

Ann Taylor, Earth and Mineral Sciences: I just wanted a clarification in the second point you mentioned. Content management systems, in the plural, and acknowledge that there are many, but one that was not mentioned and is very common at Penn State is Drupal. At the end it says the Web Task Force should in their strategic planning aim to have departments and colleges pool resources and unite together under a common CMS. I wanted to make sure that you really meant that there would be multiple CMSs to meet the needs of each college and academic unit.

Russell Scaduto: I think right now multiple CMSs would be a wise approach. Ultimately, I have two members from Information Technology Services on my committee as resource members, and what they would like to see in the long run is either multiple systems that can share information, or one system. Multiple systems can be made to share information. If there is information on one that's really more appropriately placed somewhere else, it could be moved very easily. We don't have that capability even among the CMS solutions that are in place today. Actually, I would change that right now to the immediate recommendation to move towards CMSs, not with the intent of tearing down ones that exist today.

Alexander Goodstein, IST Student Senator: I have two comments. First, I would like to address the change that you made just now. The students do appreciate that you would like to add a student to the committee. However, we would like to suggest a friendly amendment. Instead, change it to students, as a plural. Just with the idea that if there are multiple students who have an interest in trying to perfect the Web presence at Penn State, it would be helpful, especially since there are many students who have to use the Penn State Web sites daily and several times a day.

Russell Scaduto: I personally would be in favor of that. We actually, on our campus, are installing a CMS and probably the most useful information we received was from our student body. I think that's a good idea. I don't know if we want to put that out for general vote?

Alexander Goodstein: My second comment has to do with recommendation three on the Web search. Although I think the recommendation to remove outdated files is a good idea, it does

ignore a major portion of how ineffective the current Web search is right now. I don't know how many of you have actually tried to search for something on the Web search, but just as a test, I typed in football; something that should return a decent result, including the Penn State football team's Web site. However, if you go through the five pages of results that are returned, none of them is the Penn State football team Web site.

Russell Scaduto: I think you are preaching to the choir here.

Alexander Goodstein: I'd like to make another suggestion to the recommendation that the Web search should actually be re-indexed. By doing so, it would at the same time be weighing out certain Web sites within the Penn State servers so that they show earlier in the results. That way, when you type in football, it will come up with that in the beginning.

Russell Scaduto: The whole thing behind a good strategy for a Web presence is indexing properly all the content as data assets, so that they are appropriately indexed when added to the Web site and through key words or however CMS operates.

Alexander Goodstein: I understand that we currently use a Google search client, and I know through one of those you are able to assign rankings to the certain Web sites.

Russell Scaduto: Being logical, I don't think so. I'm not perfectly clear on that, but I don't think you can manipulate the Google search strategy. The reason why Google is so good and popular, is you can't control it like that. You can index the pages, so that when you type in football that page will come up. That is a good recommendation, thank you. Any more questions?

Alexandra Staub, Arts & Architecture: I just wanted to ask, because I wasn't able to find it that quickly in reading through here. There are some departments or some colleges that rely on a very strong and a very specific visual presence for their marketing, Arts and Architecture being one of them, of course. So my question is, are the guidelines adaptable enough so that, for example, a department such as Visual Arts or Architecture, which relies on very specific design elements, can be customized?

Russell Scaduto: Yes, unlike the Hershey Medical Center campus where I am from, in the College of Medicine, our missions are very tightly aligned. Our marketing is a lot easier than what would be best for this campus. Art is always a lot different from Engineering, and I don't think our committee or this Web Review Committee would try to mandate a uniform type of approach towards a marketing strategy that would not be customizable. That's not our purview, but as far as a content management system that would be able to address your needs, I'm sure that would be easily achieved.

Alexandra Staub: Even having a Penn State logo of a certain size, or certain position would be a problem. We've had it on posters in the past for example.

Russell Scaduto: That would be an issue for this Web Review Committee to tackle. The reason why AD-54 was done, if you go back to 2005, at that time no one could tell if they were actually on a Penn State Web site. There was no indication at all that you were even part of the community. Today, as you move around it is very structured, very site to site, there is very little

uniformity, but at least you know you are part of Penn State. That's why that was imposed. Actually, there are rules for how many pixels to the left, and how many pixels to the top, and the size of the image. That addressed that specific problem, but that's not to say that it could not be revised with some other means of addressing the fact that we are Penn State, and we would like to adopt some type of strategy to indicate to off-site viewers that you are here.

Chair Blasko: Are we ready to vote? Please read the amendment one more time.

Russell Scaduto: The Web Review Committee should be composed of University administrators, faculty members, and students who are charged with this oversight responsibility.

Chair Blasko: I think we are ready to vote; you can wake up your clickers by pressing any key. Please press A to accept the report, B to reject the report. I think we are ready to end the polling. The report passes; 150 in favor. Thank you.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

ADMISSIONS, RECORDS, SCHEDULING, AND STUDENT AID

Overload Registration, Appendix G. This report gives the results of a study on student overload registrations and reviews the current policy on advising registration.

FACULTY BENEFITS

Faculty Salaries, Academic Year 2007-2008, Appendix H. This annual report focuses on comparisons internally among units at Penn State and externally among peer institutions.

Faculty Wellness Survey Analysis, Appendix I.

OUTREACH

Penn State World Campus Update, Appendix J. This report presented by Ken Udas, Executive Director, World Campus, is posted on the Senate Web site at

<http://www.senate.psu.edu/agenda/2007-2008/apr29-08agn/appj.pdf>

RESEARCH

Institutional Review Boards Update, Appendix K. This report was presented by Candice Yekel, Director, Office for Research Protections. She was accompanied by Dr. Kevin Gleeson, Director of the Human Subjects Protection Office at the College of Medicine, Dr. Brandon Hunt, Social Science IRB Chair, Jodi Mathieu, Assistant Director of IRB Operations, and Tracie Kahler, Compliance Coordinator. This report is posted on the Senate Web site at

<http://www.senate.psu.edu/agenda/2007-2008/apr29-08agn/appk.pdf>

SENATE COUNCIL

Summary of Spring 2008 Officers' Visits to University Park Units, Appendix L. The Senate officers visited the College of Agricultural Sciences, the College of Arts and Architecture, the Smeal College of Business, the College of Information Sciences and Technology, the Division of Undergraduate Studies, and the University Libraries. This report summarizes the meetings with students, faculty, and unit administrators.

UNIVERSITY PLANNING

The Strategic Planning Process and the University Budget, Appendix M.

REPORT OF SENATE ELECTIONS

Chair Blasko: The next item on our agenda is the Report of Senate Elections.

Pam Hufnagel, Chair of the Elections Committee and Secretary of the Senate, will announce the election results. Secretary Hufnagel.

Pam Hufnagel: Thank you, Dawn.

I would like to thank the nominating committees and the tellers who certified the recent elections.

You will find most of the election results listed in Appendix N of your agenda.

The retired faculty senator elected for a four-year term is Peter Deines, Professor Emeritus of Geoscience in the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences. Peter was elected in 2006 as the University Ombudsman and is serving a four-year term.

I want to thank Herberta Lundegren, Professor Emerita in the Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management, College of Health and Human Development, for her dedicated service as a retired faculty senator for the past four years.

Elected member of the Faculty Advisory Committee to the President: Victor Brunsdn

Secretary of the Senate: John Boehmer

Chair-Elect of the Senate: Lee Coraor

Thank you. Congratulations to everyone.

Comments by Outgoing Chair Blasko:

Max De Pree said that "The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last is to say thank you. In between, the leader is a servant." I want to thank you all for trusting me with this great responsibility; I did my best to serve the faculty of Penn State.

Thank you for your patience. The Senate is a deliberative body and we are often criticized for moving too slowly, but like the legendary tortoise, sometimes taking it slowly allows us to make better, more informed decisions.

Thank you for your optimism. No matter how divisive an issue we faced, I saw people who believed that Penn State was a great University that was struggling to get even better.

Thank you for your willingness to compromise. Whether we are faculty, administrators, or students, we are first and foremost dedicated to excellence in education, scholarship and service and this almost always means that individually we can't have exactly what we want.

At the end of my term I feel that there is almost as much unfinished work as at the beginning of my term, but I feel thankful for what we have accomplished and for the work that will go on with your new officers.

Let me end with one of my favorite quotes attributed to the Buddha, "Let us rise up and be thankful, for if we didn't learn a lot today, at least we learned a little, and if we didn't learn a little, at least we didn't get sick, and if we got sick, at least we didn't die; so, let us all be thankful."

Seating of New Officers

Now we turn to the seating of our new officers. Lee Coraor may take Ingrid's seat and Ingrid will come and stand by me. John Boehmer may take Pam's seat.

Comments by Incoming Chair Blood: I will reserve comments for the beginning of next year.

NEW LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS – NONE

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GOOD OF THE UNIVERSITY

Chair Blood: Are there any comments and recommendations for the good of the University?

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Blood: May I have a motion to adjourn? All in favor please say aye. Motion carries. The Senate is adjourned until September 9, 2008. The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

The following Senators signed the Attendance Sheet and/or were noted as having attended the April 29, 2008 Senate Meeting.

Agawu-Kakraba, Yaw	Conti, Delia
Aggon, Norman	Coraor, Lee
Alman, Kenneth	Crawford, James
Al-Mondhiry, Hamid	Crivello, Ralph
Ambrose, Anthony	Davis, Dwight
Amburgy, Patricia	Eckhardt, Caroline
Anderson, Michael	Egolf, Roger
Atchley, Anthony	Erickson, Rodney
Aynardi, Martha	Evensen, Dorothy
Babb, David	Fernández, Juan
Bagby, John	Floros, Joanna
Baggett, Connie	Fosmire, Gary
Barney, Paul	Fox, James
Benson, Thomas	Frank, Russell
Berkowitz, Leonard	Frazier, James
Bittner, Edward	Frazier, Tim
Blasko, Dawn	Glumac, Thomas
Blood, Ingrid	Goodstein, Alexander
Boehmer, John	Gouran, Dennis
Booker, Squire	Griswold, Anna
Bordi, Peter	Hagen, Daniel
Borromeo, Renee	Halstuk, Martin
Bowen, Blannie	Hanes, Madlyn
Bower, Robin	Hannan, John
Bowers, William	Harmonosky, Catherine
Breakey, Laurie	Hasan, M. Abul
Brewer, Cynthia	Hayford, Harold
Bridges, K. Robert	Hellmann, John
Brittingham, Margaret	Hester, Anne
Brockman, William	High, Kane
Brown, Frederick	Hinchey, Patricia
Brunsdan, Victor	Holcomb, E. Jay
Buckley, William	Holen, Dale
Burlingame, Philip	Hufnagel, Pamela
Cardamone, Michael	Jago, Deidre
Carpenter, Lynn	Jones, W. Terrell
Casteel, Mark	Kasting, James
Catchen, Gary	Kester, Mark
Cecere, Joseph	Khalilollahi, Amir
Cherry, Robert	Khoury, George
Chirico, JoAnn	Knodt, Ellen
Clark, Paul	Koch, Patricia
Clark, Elisha	Korostoff, Neil
Clark, Mary Beth	Kulikowich, Jonna
Kump, Lee	Rosson, Mary Beth

Lang, Charles
Lawlor, Timothy
Lee, Barrett
Leva, Martha
Lightfoot, Cynthia
Lingle, Virginia
Liu, Leah
Long, Christopher
Lundegren, Herberta
Mackertich, Seroj
Mahon, William
Maple, Amanda
Marsico, Salvatore
Martin, Rose
McCarty, Ronald
Melnick, Steven
Meloy, Margaret
Miles, James
Milone-Nuzzo, Paula
Mockensturm, Eric
Mohney, Suzanne
Morales, Aldo
Myers, Jamie
Neill, Colin
Nelson, Keith
Ofosu, Willie
O'Hara, Dolores
Pangborn, Robert
Paterson, Eric
Pauley, Laura
Pell, Eva
Pendharkar, Parag
Perrine, Joy
Pietrucha, Martin
Poole, Thomas
Pytel, Jean Landa
Radhakrishna, Rama
Rannels, Stephen
Richards, Winston
Richards, David
Ricketts, Robert
Romano, John
Romberger, Andrew

Rung, Donald
Russell, Valarie
Salvia, A. David
Sanchez, John
Sandmeyer, Louise
Sathianathan, Dhushy
Scaduto, Russell
Schengrund, Cara-Lynne
Schmiedekamp, Ann
Schultz, Karen
Schwab, Jacqueline
Selzer, John
Shannon, Kathleen
Sheroff, Matthew
Shirer, Hampton
Shostell, Joseph
Shriver, Sharon
Sims, Barbara
Smith, James
Smutz, Wayne
Spanier, Graham
Stahl, Jill
Staneva, Marieta
Staub, Alexandra
Steiner, Kim
Stene, John
Strauss, James
Taylor, Ann
Tellep, Andrew
Tempelman, Arkady
Thornton, Linda
Tierney, John
Tormey, Brian
Trich Kremer, Jennifer
Troester, Rodney
Turner, Tramble
Vary, Thomas
Vgontzas, Alexandros
Vickrey, Jack
Vrana, Kent
Waterhouse, William
Welch, Susan
Wertz, Eric

White, Eric
Wiens-Tuers, Barbara
Willits, Billie
Wilson, Ronald
Wolbrette, Deborah
Yarnal, Brenton
Youmans, Charles
Zambanini, Robert
Ziegler, Gregory