



THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

THE SENATE RECORD

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When existing communication channels seem inappropriate, Senators are encouraged to submit brief letters relevant to the Senate's function as a legislative, advisory and consultative, and forensic body 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://www.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, September 11, 2007, at 1:30 p.m.

The University Faculty Senate met on Tuesday, September 11, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. in room 112 Kern Graduate Building with Dawn Blasko, Chair, presiding.

Chair Blasko: Six years ago many of us were Senators and we were here when we heard about the terrorist attacks on New York, the Pentagon, and Pennsylvania, so I would like to start this Senate meeting by having a brief moment of silence for the victims of those terrorist attacks and all of those who have died because of terrorism in the last six years.

MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETING

Chair Blasko: The April 24, 2007, 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?

Seeing none, may I hear a motion to accept?

Senators: So moved.

Chair Blasko: Second?

Senators: Second.

Chair Blasko: All in favor of accepting the minutes of April 24, 2007, please say aye.

Senators: Aye.

Chair Blasko: Opposed say nay. Ayes have it, motion carried. The minutes of the April 24, 2007, meeting have been approved.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE SENATE

Senate Curriculum Report of August 28, 2007. This document is posted on the University Faculty Senate Web site.

REPORT OF SENATE COUNCIL – Meeting of August 28, 2007.

Enclosed in today's agenda are the minutes from the August 28 meeting of Senate Council found at the end of your agenda. Included in the minutes are topics that were discussed by the Faculty Advisory Committee to the President at the August 28 meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Chair Blasko: Out of courtesy to our presenters, please turn off your cell phones and pagers at this time. Thank you.

I want to welcome new and returning faculty, students, ex-officio, and appointed senators to the new Senate year. I anticipate a productive year and want to introduce the other officers of the Senate: Chair-elect Ingrid Blood, College of Health and Human Development; Secretary Pamela Hufnagel, Penn State DuBois; Immediate past chair Joanna Floros, College of Medicine. Jean Landa Pytel, College of Engineering, is serving as our new parliamentarian.

I also want to acknowledge the chairs and vice-chairs of the 15 Senate committees; will you all please stand. You can find information on the Senate committees including committee priorities on the Senate Web site. <http://www.senate.psu.edu>. As the Senate year progresses, committee minutes will also be posted.

The Senate officers will visit the following campuses during the fall semester: Erie on September 13, Shenango and Beaver on September 14, Lehigh Valley and Berks on October 16, York and Mont Alto on October 17.

I want to urge senators at these campuses to encourage your colleagues and students to attend the meetings. Information on meeting times and locations may be obtained from the chancellor's office.

On August 15, 27 faculty governance representatives from 12 commonwealth campuses and the Senate Officers met at Penn State Altoona. This meeting follows a successful 2005 meeting at Altoona. This year's meeting was coordinated by Altoona faculty senators Barbara Wiens-Tuers and Victor Brunsden and hosted by Chancellor Lori Bechtel.

The meeting included discussions of functions for campus faculty governance, curricular issues, and facilitating communication between the University Faculty Senate and campus governance organizations. Vice President Romano made brief comments at lunch and stood for questions. The Penn State Schuylkill representatives offered to host the faculty governance meeting next August.

At the back of the auditorium is a flier announcing a professional development conference on academic advising October 4 and 5 at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel. The theme of the conference is on the sophomore year and critical turning points for students and their academic advisers. The Senate is pleased to join the Division of Undergraduate Studies and the Office of Undergraduate Education in sponsoring this meeting. Several Penn State faculty are giving papers on such topics as decision-making theory, teaching and learning styles, engaging and motivating sophomores, and the virtual world of a sophomore. I want to encourage you to attend 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.

Constitution Day will be observed at Penn State with special events taking place across campuses on Monday, September 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Constitution Day is sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Education and the Laboratory for Public Scholarship and Democracy. Events are also being held at a variety of campuses including Delaware County, Hazleton, and Harrisburg. For a schedule of events and classroom activities go to <http://www.publicscholarship.psu.edu> and click on Constitution Day.

It is a great honor to stand before you today. Many Senate Chairs have had more experience, intelligence, and eloquence than I, so in my preparation I read the comments of my predecessors to learn from their wisdom. Metaphors of a balancing act were common.

Chair Floros pointed out how both too much light, and too little, impairs our vision. Faculty, who like to think of themselves as living in the light and administrators, who are accused of inhabiting the dark, must find a place where they can clearly see each other's points of view.

Chair Myers spoke of the resonance between inquiry and democracy. We need to ask questions and to understand differences, while finding avenues for collaboration.

Chair Steiner spoke of the tension created when over 5,000 faculty members who are each scholarly entrepreneurs must somehow come together to use their diverse experiences toward common goals in service to the University.

I will resist the temptation to extend the metaphorical balancing act by describing the Senate as a three ring circus (although the office staff may sometimes feel that way) but I would argue that the Faculty Senate is one place in the University that performs a very successful high wire routine. In our Senate service each of us acts as a role model of citizenship to our colleagues and our students, often overcoming our busy schedules and sublimating our narrow self interest in the service of our educational and land grant mission. Our 15 committees each perform as a model of democracy. Faculty members from different locations with diverse interests work together with administrators to juggle complex issues.

Previous chairs also pointed out how the time that we all spend on Senate work need not be at the expense of our personal and professional development. Research suggests that new students feel more engaged and have higher rates of retention when they get involved. Students active on campus or involved in service learning in the community create social support networks, are exposed to diverse perspectives, gain a sense of control over their new environment, and develop leadership skills.

It is no different for a new faculty member. Every faculty member should be mentored in university citizenship just as they are in teaching and research. Beginning with small local issues they will gradually gain the experience, the knowledge, and the diplomatic skills to become leaders in the University community and in their professional disciplines. Some of Penn State's most distinguished scholars and educators have been involved in shared governance.

This year, the Faculty Senate will continue to play an important role in addressing issues of broad interest to faculty around the University. The committee to examine the First-Year Seminar will be reporting back to the Senate this year. We will continue to monitor the implementation of disciplinary communities across the University. We have a proposal for a joint subcommittee of IRC and Faculty Affairs to focus on fixed-term faculty issues. We will be re-examining the 2000 Senate Uniscope report. Our committees will continue to discuss issues of major importance in higher education; including access and affordability, online education, enhancing diversity, campus security, intellectual property rights, faculty oversight of intercollegiate athletics, and the importance of academic freedom. I would encourage campus governance leaders to continue to meet on a regular basis, but I would also like to see a meeting that includes governance leaders from both the campuses and the University Park colleges.

I hope our student senators also feel like valued members of the Senate. Today they met for the first time at a Senate sponsored luncheon to discuss the formation of a student caucus under the mentorship of Past Chairs Floros and Myers.

I believe that together we can encourage effective shared governance at every academic unit. If shared governance at your unit seems weak, work to strengthen it. Ask for a forum to share Senate issues with faculty at your units and feel free to share issues that you hear with the Senate leadership.

Let me close by saying I hope that you are as excited as I am to begin this new Senate year. Please don't hesitate to contact me at any time.

Now, I would like to ask you to join me in congratulating President Spanier, who was recently appointed by the Board of Trustees to a new five-year term.

COMMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

President Spanier made the following announcements and responded to a question from Abington Senator Tramble T. Turner:

- commented on stable fall 2007 enrollments at the University Park campus and increases at most campuses.
- invited in-put on the Judicial Affairs report
<http://www.psu.edu/ur/pdf/judicialaffairs10-01-07.pdf>
- encouraged Senators to watch his State of the University Address
<http://president.psu.edu/sou/articles/sou2007.html>

The president responded to a question about international travel and the rising costs of study abroad for students. The questioner expressed concerns about cost savings with the required use of University Travel Services. The president was asked if he could support a study to examine if decentralizing travel services would lower travel costs. Senators were encouraged to send their comments and concerns to President Spanier or the University Office of Travel Services.

Chair Blasko: Today we are going to start to use the Personal Response System (PRS) to vote on Legislative and Advisory and Consultative reports.

John Harwood, Senior Director of Teaching and Learning with Technology has arranged for 300 clickers to be donated to the Senate. Using this system will provide a precise count for each vote taken. Many of you will remember the January 2007 Senate meeting, when a hand count was taken on the First-Year Seminar legislation. There was a four vote difference between the yes and the no votes. The clicker system provides for accuracy and precision in tallying the vote count. It also allows for confidential voting and gives immediate results. The clickers will be distributed at the beginning of each Senate meeting and Senators will be asked to leave their clickers in a box before leaving the auditorium.

With us today to give a brief overview and demonstration of the Personal Response System are John Harwood; Dave Test, a programmer with Teaching and learning with Technology; and Becky Carolus, Manager of Technology Classrooms.

Chair Blasko: As we begin our discussion of reports, I remind you to please stand, wait for a microphone, and identify yourself and the unit you represent before addressing the Senate.

FORENSIC BUSINESS – NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The first report is from the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Education. It appears on today's agenda as Appendix C entitled Revisions to Senate Policy 42-50, Credit by Examination/Proficiency Examination. 2006-2007 Committee Chair Greg Ziegler will present this report.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

Revisions to Senate Policy 42-50, Credit by Examination/Proficiency Examination,
Appendix C

Gregory Ziegler, 2006-2007 Committee Chair

Gregory Ziegler, College of Agricultural Sciences: The committee thinks the report is self-explanatory, so now I will answer questions.

David Salvia, College of Engineering: There were two issues brought up at the Engineering Caucus yesterday about this report. Item number two talks about the credit by undergraduate proficiency examination, and says when a department requires an examination for initial placement in a course or course sequence; the credits received are described as credits by undergraduate proficiency examination. For example, in Chemistry there is an examination for CHEM 110 that is not required and it is not an initial placement, but that is one that a student can

earn credit for. I think the wording should be changed from requires to offers and the word initial might be removed completely.

Chair Blasko: Greg are you taking that as a friendly amendment?

Gregory Ziegler: I think the committee could accept that.

David Salvia: The second issue was the continuing confusion about placement exams that do not earn credit, particularly in language courses. I spoke with Carey Eckhardt after our meeting this morning and she clarified it for me. I am wondering if there should be more clarification in this legislation for programs that do have a placement exam but do not offer credit. The wording is covered by the phrase “if any” and we were wondering if that would be sufficient?

Gregory Ziegler: So the issue is whether or not there should be an explicit statement in this policy regarding those kinds of examinations? My sense would be not, because this is a policy on credit by examination and I don’t know where else to place it.

Caroline Eckhardt, College of the Liberal Arts: Having been invoked, I think that I view what you just said now, that this policy concerns only the granting of credit. I also think that the inclusion of “if any” is a very important modification to the present way that the wording is stated, because the departments are under no obligation to offer credit by examination, or to offer examinations for this purpose. Leave space for the wide variation that currently exists among departments across the whole University. It is up to the department or faculty whether they wish to give an examination by which students can seek to obtain credit or not.

Chair Blasko: Any other questions? This report has been brought to the floor by the committee and it needs no second. Are we ready to vote? All those in favor of this report, press number 1 and enter. Opposed, press number 2 and enter. If you are having problems voting with the Personal Response System then we will do a voice vote, if that is alright with the parliamentarian. All those in favor of this legislation, please say Aye.

Senators: Aye.

Chair Blasko: Opposed say Nay. The Ayes have it. The report passes.

Post-meeting note: Following the Senate meeting Liberal Arts senator Caroline Eckhardt raised concerns about the floor amendments proposed by Engineering senator David Salvia. Senate chair Dawn Blasko requested that this matter be referred back to the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Education for review at their October 23 meeting.

The next report is from the Senate Committee on Committees and Rules. This report appears on today’s agenda as Appendix B entitled Revision to the Bylaws, Article III, Section 1 (b) (Election to the Senate). Committee Vice Chair Leonard Berkowitz will present this report.

Because this report is a proposed amendment to the Bylaws it will be discussed today and then voted on at the October 23 Senate meeting.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES AND RULES
Revision to the Bylaws, Article III, Section 1 (b) (Election to the Senate), Appendix B
Leonard Berkowitz, Committee Vice Chair

Leonard Berkowitz, University College, York: You will be relieved to know that you won't have to use the clickers on this one. Current Senate Bylaws require there be twice as many nominees as there are Senators to be elected. A few large units have run into difficulty finding enough faculty willing to run for Senate seats to fulfill this requirement. When that happens, the situation presents a problem for both the unit and the Senate office. The Committee on Committees and Rules is proposing a simple solution to the problem while retaining the principle that there must be some choice in voting for Senators and you will see the proposed revision in bold. It is recommended there be at least twice as many nominations as there are Senators to be elected, and there must be no fewer than one and one-half times the number of Senators to be elected.

ADVISORY AND CONSULTATIVE REPORT – NONE

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

FACULTY BENEFITS

Joint Committee on Insurance and Benefits Annual Report 2006-2007, Appendix D. The Joint Committee on Insurance and Benefits presented its annual report focusing on the following topics: health care rates and coverage; wellness initiatives, dental coverage, long-term care plans, and TIAA-CREF. Billie Willits, Associate Vice President for Human Resources, stood for questions.

FACULTY RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Faculty Rights and Responsibilities, Annual Report of 2006-2007, Appendix E. This annual report provided a summary of the cases considered in the last academic year. Kim Steiner, 2006-2007 Chair, stood for questions.

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative Annual Report, Appendix F. Scott Kretchmar, NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative gave an annual report on academic eligibility and athletic scholarships. Kenneth Swalgin, Penn State Athletic Conference Faculty Athletic Representative, gave a report on campus athletic programs.

UNIVERSITY PLANNING

University Park Master Plan Update, Appendix G. Gordon Turow, Director of Campus Planning and Design, and Ford Stryker, Associate Vice President for Physical Plant presented this report and responded to questions. This report is posted on the Senate Web site at <http://www.senate.psu.edu>

NEW LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS – NONE

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GOOD OF THE UNIVERSITY

Chair Blasko: Are there any comments?

Tramble Turner, Penn State Abington: There are a number of hotels and motels downtown that are \$30.00 less than the Nittany Lion Inn or the Penn Stater. Perhaps if more of us would make use of those hotels, that would give the Senate Office more resources to devote to other things, and I also would like to point out if anyone like me chooses to risk your health by smoking, there are smoking rooms available downtown but not on campus.

Frederick Brown, College of the Liberal Arts: I hope in the future when we are provided with slides we also get colored copies for the Senate, so that we may discuss this with our constituents with clarity.

Chair Blasko: You can see them in color on the Web site.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Blasko: May I have a motion to adjourn?

Senators: So moved.

Chair Blasko: All those in favor, please say Aye.

Senators: Aye.

Chair Blasko: Motion carries.

The September 11, 2007, meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m. The next meeting of the University Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday, October 23, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 112 Kern Graduate Building.