



THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

THE SENATE RECORD

Volume 41-----October 23, 2007-----Number 2

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.

The publication is issued by the Senate Office, 101 Kern Graduate Building, University Park, PA 16802 (telephone 814-863-0221). The Senate Record is distributed to all libraries across the Penn State system, and is posted on the Web at <http://www.senate.psu.edu> under "Publications." Copies are made available to faculty and other University personnel on request.

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 inappropriate, 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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Final Agenda for October 23, 2007	Page ii
II.	Minutes and Summaries of Remarks	Pages 1-5
III.	Attendance	Appendix I

FINAL AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 23, 2007

- A. [MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETING](#) Page 1
Minutes of the September 11, 2007, Meeting in [The Senate Record](#) 41:1
[\[www.senate.psu.edu/record/indix.html\]](http://www.senate.psu.edu/record/indix.html)
- B. [COMMUNICATIONS TO THE SENATE](#)
[Senate Curriculum Report](#) of October 9, 2007
[\[www.senate.psu.edu/curriculum_resources/bluehseet/bluex.html\]](http://www.senate.psu.edu/curriculum_resources/bluehseet/bluex.html)
- C. [REPORT OF SENATE COUNCIL](#) - Meeting of October 9, 2007
- D. [ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIR](#)
- E. [COMMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY](#)
- F. [FORENSIC BUSINESS](#)
- G. [UNFINISHED BUSINESS](#)
- H. [LEGISLATIVE REPORTS](#)
Committee on Committees and Rules
[Revision to the Bylaws, Article III, Section 1 \(b\)](#)
(Election to the Senate)
- I. [ADVISORY/CONSULTATIVE REPORTS](#)
- J. [INFORMATIONAL REPORTS](#)
Admissions, Records, Scheduling, and Student Aid
[Report on Faculty Senate Scholarships Awarded to Undergraduates](#)
Computing and Information Systems and Research (Joint Report)
[Best Practices for the Preservation of Digital Data](#)
Senate Council
[University Budget and Planning Report](#)
- K. [NEW LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS](#)
- L. [COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GOOD OF THE UNIVERSITY](#)

The University Faculty Senate
Tuesday, October 23, 2007, at 1:30 PM

The University Faculty Senate met on Tuesday, October 23, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. in room 112 Kern Graduate Building with Dawn Blasko, Chair, presiding.

MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETING

Chair Blasko: The September 11, 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 September 11, 2007, minutes please say aye.

Senators: Aye.

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

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE SENATE

Senate Curriculum Report of October 9, 2007. This document is posted on the University Faculty Senate Web site.

REPORT OF SENATE COUNCIL – Meeting of October 9, 2007.

Enclosed in today's agenda are the minutes from the October 9 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 October 9 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.

The Senate officers have completed our fall visits to campuses and will debrief Provost Erickson and Vice President Romano following today's Senate meeting.

The University Ombudsman's report is included in your Senate Agenda. Professor Emeritus of Geochemistry Peter Deines presented the report at the October 9 Senate Council meeting. The report summarizes responses to a survey conducted this summer of all college and campus ombudsmen. I also want to call your attention to the roster of college and campus ombudsmen. Please take time to review this report.

I wanted to let you know about a new task force with members from the Administrative Council on Undergraduate Education, the Senate, and the Office of Undergraduate Education, co-chaired by Jeremy Cohen and me. The task force will be examining a wide range of existing University policies and procedures in relation to the various on-line initiatives of the University. We are particularly interested in identifying gaps in policy and procedure and will be proposing revisions or next steps to address these gaps.

The annual CIC faculty governance meeting is being hosted by the University of Iowa on November 2 and 3. Ingrid, Susan, and I will be attending.

The First-Year Seminar Committee, co-chaired by Kim Steiner and Patti Mills, is making good progress. The officers received a briefing last week and they will be meeting with a variety of students and administrative groups over the next two months, including the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Education in December. We look forward to receiving the committee's recommendations in the spring.

On October 15, the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics sponsored a day-long faculty summit on Intercollegiate Athletics in Washington, DC. This meeting was called to report the results of a national survey on "Faculty Perceptions of Intercollegiate Athletics." The executive summary of the survey and the meeting agenda are posted on the Intercollegiate Athletics Web site. I encourage you to review this material.

We have had a number of questions about the changes to the Judicial Affairs procedures and we sent the recommendations from that committee to our Senate committees and those recommendations from the committees were then sent to the President, and to Bob Secor, who chaired the committee. Their reply on the revisions to the Policy have been sent back to the Senate and will be posted on the Senate Web site for review.

COMMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

President Spanier is unable to be here today because he is attending a meeting of the Association of American Universities. The AAU is an association of 62 leading research universities in the United States and Canada. President Spanier will be the 2007-2008 chair of AAU.

We will continue to use the Personal Response System clickers for voting on Legislative and Advisory and Consultative reports and we have one report to be voted on today.

Dave Test, a programmer with Teaching and Learning with Technology, will give a brief presentation and demonstration on the clicker system.

We received some feedback on the clickers following the last meeting. Several of you think it is a good system and with refinement, will work well for voting. Others of you made Florida and Ohio voting comparisons while others observed that our votes should be open so that our constituencies can see how we vote. A couple of you raised issues related to the current national concerns about electronic voting and voter confidence, including such factors as voter fraud and audit trails.

The officers and I are committed to working with the clickers this year for Senate votes. We will continue to evaluate the use of the clickers and report back to you.

Now I would like to have Dave give his presentation. We have several IT staff with us today to help troubleshoot your use of the clickers. If you have problems, please raise your hand.

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 REPORTS

We have a Legislative report from the Senate Committee on Committees and Rules. This report appears on today's agenda as Appendix B. Since this report proposes an amendment to the Bylaws, it was discussed at the September Senate meeting and then tabled until today. Committee Vice-Chair Leonard Berkowitz will respond to questions.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES AND RULES

Revision to the Bylaws, Article III, Section 1 (b) (Election to the Senate), Appendix B
Leonard Berkowitz, Vice-Chair

Leonard Berkowitz, Penn State York: The instructions tell us that if your clicker goes to sleep before the vote, we should press any button, but what do we do if our senator goes to sleep before the vote?

The Senate Committee on Committees and Rules is recommending a minor change in the Bylaws to fix an occasional problem in Senate elections. Some large units need to elect multiple senators in a given year. Current Senate rules require there to be at least twice as many nominees as there are senators to be elected. Sometimes these large units have difficulty in getting enough faculty willing to be nominees. When that happens, the Bylaws are violated and both the unit and the Senate Office are put in an awkward position. We recommend changing the required number of nominees from "twice as many" to "one and one half times the number of nominees" to make it easier for these large units to meet the Senate requirement while still insuring a choice of candidates in all Senate elections.

Chair Blasko: This report has been brought to the floor by committee and needs no second. Are we ready to vote? All those in favor of this report, press number 1 and the enter key. Opposed, press number 2 and the enter key. The Ayes have it, 175 votes.

There will be several Legislative Reports the next meeting so we will get a lot of practice.

Gary Catchen, College of Engineering: Out of the three categories of votes, aye, nay, and invalid, if it is a close vote in the future how will we deal with the votes in the invalid column?

Chair Blasko: If the vote is close than we can go back to the old way of doing it.

ADVISORY AND CONSULTATIVE REPORTS – NONE

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

ADMISSIONS, RECORDS, SCHEDULING, AND STUDENT AID

Report on Faculty Senate Scholarships Awarded to Undergraduates, Appendix C.

COMPUTING AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND RESEARCH

Report on Best Practices for the Preservation of Digital Data, Appendix D.

SENATE COUNCIL

University Budget and Planning, Appendix E. Executive Vice President and Provost Rodney Erickson provided a brief summary of the University's 2007-08 Operating Budget, including the state appropriation, basic operating costs, and budget priorities. He also summarized the University's budget plan and appropriation request for 2008-09 and discussed the updated strategic planning guidelines. The slide presentation is posted on the Senate Web site at <http://www.senate.psu.edu/agenda/2007-2008/oct23-07agn/appe.pdf>.

NEW LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS – NONE

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GOOD OF THE UNIVERSITY

Chair Blasko: Are there any comments?

Tramble Turner, Penn State Abington: I wanted to take this opportunity to commend, in particular, the East Halls Residence Association and a number of student organizations. The weekend of the Jena Six protest down in Louisiana happened to be when the East Residence Halls sponsored their second annual 5K race and walk, The Race Against Racism. I would encourage more faculty to look at participating in such events. Some other locations are looking into doing a similar event. It would be nice if we could find ways to talk about how the Senate and committees could connect with student initiatives like that which take on social concerns.

Chair Blasko: Any other comments?

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 carried. The next meeting of the University Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday, December 11, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 112 Kern Graduate Building.