Dr. Brian Carey Sims, President Presiding


Faculty Senate President, Dr. Brian Sims, greeted senators and guests.

A moment of Silence

Approval of the Minutes (August 28, 2012)
The August Minutes were unanimously approved and passed.

Committee Membership: President Sims called for committee members for Senate sub-committees, especially for Chair of the Hearing and Reconsideration Committee; and the Educational Policy Committee. The Faculty Handbook Committee also welcomes new members. Dr. Sims reminded senators that each must hold a sub-committee membership post as well as their senatorial post.

COMMITTEE REPORT

New Programs and Curricula Committee, Dr. Sheila Whitley, Chair
Approved and passed by the Faculty Senate were the following curricula changes:

1) English - 1 new course
2) Mathematics - 2 new concentrations (Merging two (2) degrees into one (1) degree with two (2) concentrations)

In addition, the Senate voted to approve the following existing courses for inclusion on the new General Education Curriculum, in the following student learning outcome categories:

1) Mathematical Logical, and Analytical Reasoning – 9 courses
2) Social and Behavioral Sciences – 2 courses
3) Social and Behavioral Sciences – Knowledge of African-American Culture – 2 courses
4) Humanities and Fine Arts – Global Understanding – 2 courses

Faculty Compensation Review: Dr. Sims reviewed and revised in detail the substance of a letter requesting the Chancellor to initiate a review of compensation and workload among the various schools and colleges. The study had been recommended by the Senate last month, and the letter requesting the Chancellor to initiate the study followed from this recommendation. The letter was passed as revised by the Senate body.

Faculty Assembly Report: The assembly report will be posted on BlackBoard. Additionally, Dr Sims encouraged the use of creative and innovative technology in the classroom including interactive teaching styles.

General Education Update: Dr. Scott Simkins asked that department curriculum guides be submitted to the Senate for approval during the October 2012 Senate meeting. Dr. Simkins stressed that it is critical that these gain approval in the coming month.

Plus/Minus Grading Update: The new plus/minus grading system was approved in the spring 2012. The provost promised to discuss the system with the Dean’s Council and return their response to the Senate before deciding when to implement it.

Graduate School Policy Update: As reported by Dr. Sarin, Dean of Graduate Studies, the graduate school policies currently posted on the Senate website would be emailed to all senators, though the policies have already been approved before they were shown to the Senate. He reported that the Provost was not in favor of the Graduate Studies Council being returned to the purview of the Senate as a sub-committee. A review of how other universities handle this matter was recommended.

HR & DORED Policy Update: These policies are posted on the Legal Affairs website and will be sent to the senators by email. Dr. Janis Oldham expressed a call for clarification in the policies on grievance.

Next Meeting: October 23, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. in Academic Classroom Building (A101).

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Professor Wendy C. Hamblet
Secretary

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