Meeting

Regular meeting of the full senate, 3:15 PM, 3rd Floor Simulation Center, Tulane University Medical School. 39 members were present.

Presiding: The chair, President Cowen.

Attendance:

Ex Officio: S. Cowen, M. Davies, M. Bernstein, B. Sachs, T. Lorino, G Chavez, C. Adams (as proxy for C. Cipriano), J. Wiese

Deans: R. Marksbury, S Barrer (as proxy for P. Buekens), N. Altiero

A. B. Freeman School of Business: None

Newcomb-Tulane College: None

Architecture: None

Continuing Studies: L. Green, L. Green (as proxy for K. McLennan)

Law: C. Hancock, J. Carriere

Liberal Arts: T. Cole, V. Mayer

Medicine: K. Weissbecker (as proxy for Hans Andersson), J. McLachlan (as proxy for L. Morici), D. Mushatt (as proxy for R. Reitan), D. Mushatt, M. Kahn (as proxy for K. DeSalvo), A. Betancourt

Public Health and Tropical Medicine: H. Long, J. Lefante (as proxy for S. Hassig), J. Lefante, N. Mock

Science and Engineering: None

Social Work: L. Pearlmutter

Student Senators: E. Nicoll, M. Lewis

Staff Senators: S. Barrera, L Orgeron (as proxy for R. Platner)

Senators at Large: V. John, M. Kahn, J. Friedman (as proxy for D. Kehoe), L. Meyers, J. Ruscher, J. Tasker, V. Mayer (as proxy for T. Tornqvist).

Absent Voting Senators:


Minutes:

The minutes of the February 7th meeting were approved without amendment. The final amended minutes are posted on the Senate Wiki under both the February and April meeting agendas.

Introduction of New Members:

President Cowen introduced Cassady Adams (President of the Assoc. Student Body) and Michael Lewis (USG) as new Senators.
President's Report

President Cowen provided an update on the “Eight Priorities.”

The Decentralized Management Center (DMC) model is in place and is going very well.

Work on the School of Medicine clinical enterprise platform continues. President Cowen noted the importance of this initiative with respect to medical education and research.

Tulane has raised over 20 million dollars as part of the Tulane Empowers campaign. The importance of this campaign is with respect to Tulane’s ability to recruit and retain faculty and students. Thus far, it has been very well received.

Tulane will have a full complement of division one teams for athletics. The plans for football will continue to be discussed over the coming year.

A third residential college is being considered; where this might be built is still being discussed.

A significant investment in information technology is being planned, with a five-million dollar initial investment to start the initiative. Initially, this will be used for infrastructure and hardware.

A new Dean of the A.B. Freeman Business School has been appointed. Ira Solomon (currently at Univ. of Illinois); will be joining as the dean June 1st, 2011.

The Southern Association of Colleges (SACS) site visit is complete. President Cowen noted that the onset site-visit reported no recommendations and no criticisms. In sum, it was a stellar report.

With respect to student enrollment, Tulane is ahead in deposits, suggesting that the students who have applied are serious about attending Tulane. As of this date, we have 565 deposits; the average over the past three years has been 477. If these numbers hold up, Tulane would end up with 1600 enrollees. We were hoping for a class of 1450. Our yield appears to have increased.

President Cowen reported that the quality of the pool is quite high, a product of a higher selectivity; 2,000 fewer students were accepted vs. last year.

ELECTIONS

1. Election to the Committee on Committees

Nominations were opened. M. Davis noted that per the bylaws, the open seats required nominees who are currently senators, coming from the School of Social Work, the School of Liberal Arts and the School of Architecture.

S. Burnhardt was nominated. With no further nominations, a motion was made and seconded to elect S. Burnhardt. The motion was passed.

Marva Lewis was nominated from the School of Social Work. The motion was seconded and approved.
There were no nominations for election from the School of Liberal Arts. The election was postponed to the April 25th Senate meeting.

2. Secretary of the Senate

Nominations for the Secretary of the Senate were opened. J. Wiese was nominated. With no further nominations, a motion was made and seconded to elect J. Wiese. The motion was passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. A Second Reading was heard regarding an amendment to Section III of the Faculty Handbook. The amendment involves Part III. Article I, Section 2 and 6. The entirety of the amendment can be found on the Tulane University Senate wiki under the February 7th and April 5th agendas.

Senator Friedman noted that the FTFR Committee has had a cooperative and non-adversarial relationship with the Provost’s office in addressing this issue.

Senator Long noted that he was pleased that the concerns expressed at the February 7th meeting had been addressed, and that the revised language was acceptable.

A letter from faculty currently in the Professor of Practice (see the Senate wiki) was raised in the discussion; the letter regarded faculty currently in the Professor of Practice category. Joell noted that there is no mention in the Faculty Handbook regarding whether changes to the handbook are retrospective, prospective or both. J. Wiese noted, from a parliamentary point of view, if there is no specification as to who the amendment affects, the implication is that it affects everyone. J. Wiese noted that if it was the will of the Senate to have this only apply to faculty on a prospective basis, there should be an amendment so stating.

The Provost noted that there is a general sentiment that those who are currently Professor of Practice should be grandparented, with the amendment applying prospectively only. Senator Friedman noted that this was the unanimous sentiment of FTFR.

Senator Long moved an amendment of the amendment, stating that this amendment, be applicable only to faculty not currently occupying a position as Professor of Practice. The motion was seconded.

Senator Kahn raised the issue of non-productive clinical faculty member’s in the School of Medicine, and whether this amendment could result in adverse patient-care outcomes for faculty deemed to be not competent in their field.

Dean Sachs suggested that this apply only to Professor of Practice until further discussion/study for the implications for the school of medicine.

A question was raised regarding “What is a review for a Professor of Practice?” It was noted that this is not
addressed in the Faculty Handbook. The only way to review is to use the digital response course evaluations, and it was noted that this has been unreliable.

Senator Friedman noted that the modified language sets forth that the standards for review are to be set by each college.

It was questioned whether this “grandparenting” should apply to all Professor of Practice faculty or just those in their second term.

Senator Friedman noted that each school has its own procedure for when promotion is appropriate, and that the amendment gives authority to this procedure to each school.

**Senator Kahn moved to postpone the amendment to the amendment** (as originally made by Senator Long, addressing “grandparenting” of the amendment). There was no discussion. The motion to postpone the amendment to the amendment was passed. The amendment addressing “grandparenting” was postponed to the April 25th meeting.

Discussion returned to the primary motion (the Amendment of the Faculty handbook, as originally made by Senator Friedman). There was no further discussion. The motion passed with 34 votes yes; 0 votes no (>2/3 of Senators present and voting).

2. **A Second Reading regarding an amendment to Section III of the Faculty Handbook, regarding “Faculty Titles” was on the agenda.** Senator Long requested, based upon the passage of the Faculty Handbook Amendment (as noted above) that his motion be withdrawn. As there was no second, the request was obliged.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **Athletics**

Dick Culbertson provided an update on the NCAA accreditation process. Tulane was last reviewed by the NCAA, with a certification of good standing, in 2000.

Tulane is now up for its re-accreditation, and a self-study has been instituted. One segment of the self-study will focus upon the academic integrity, governance and rules compliance of Tulane’s athletic programs.

Another component of the self-study will address gender equity, diversity and athlete well-being.

The document, when finished, will be roughly 200 pages in length; demonstrating compliance, institutional control of the athletic department and programs, and that the athletic programs are in concordance with the values and mission of the university.

The review document will be posted to the web at Tulane.edu/ncaa/index.cfm.

There will be a town-hall meeting to review the report on April 13th at 4 pm. The final report will be brought to the April 25th Senate meeting. Eventually, the report will be submitted and reviewed by the NCAA on April 29th.
At the beginning of November, a visiting committee from the NCAA will visit Tulane for a three-day review of the athletic programs. The site-visiting team, having reviewed the report, will then make a formal report to the NCAA.

2. Equal Opportunity and Institutional Equity

A report was provided from the Equal Opportunity and Institutional Equity Committee. The Committee has met three times this year. The full report can be found at the Senate wiki, under the EOMI committee link.

3. Physical Facilities

Senator John presented the report from the Physical Facilities Committee. The Committee has met twice this year. The full report can be found at the Senate wiki, under the Physical Facilities committee link. One document provides an update on all of the construction/improvement on campus. The second document addresses energy utilization (Leadership in Energy Efficient Design: LEED). Senator John requested that Senators review the document and vote to approve the LEED document. This will be taken up at a subsequent Senate meeting.

A question was raised regarding the parking situation on campus. In specific, a concern had been forwarded to the Physical Facilities Committee regarding parking for contractors: how many spots the contractors use, and whether there is any policing of that.

Senator John noted that he had replied by asking that the concern be substantiated, but that he had received no reply from that correspondence.

It was noted that the contractors were given two permits, but could purchase an unlimited number of daily permits. On any given day, there are up to twenty trucks parking on campus. A suggestion was made that Blue hang-tags (as used for visitors) be administered. T. Lorino noted that he would work with Senator John on this issue.

4. Student Affairs

There was no report; the report was deferred.

5. Social Issues

It was reported that another meeting of the Social Issues Committee is scheduled for the following Monday. Almost all of the holes have been filled. A final report is scheduled for the April 25th meeting. Scott Schneider and Anne Banjos will be at the meeting to address the report.

A question was raised regarding whether this was a public meeting. The answer is no, it is closed.

NEW BUSINESS
1. Approval of the Graduate Council Constitution.

A motion was made to approve the Graduate Council Constitution. The motion was seconded.

It was noted that the Graduate Council has already approved its amended constitution, as available on the Senate wiki under the April 5th Agenda. J. Wiese noted that per the Senate Constitution and By-laws, the Senate must approve any constituency’s amended constitutions.

A question was raised whether the Senate could approve a constitution without two readings. J. Wiese noted that two readings (previous notice) are required for amendments to its own By-laws, Constitution, and Part III of the Faculty Handbook, but that previous notice is not required to approve a constituent organization’s constitution.

Having no further discussion, a vote was taken; the motion for approval passed.

Adjournment

Having no additional new business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:14 PM.

Respectively Submitted,

Jeff Wiese, MD

Secretary, Tulane University Senate

Secretary’s Note: All written reports mentioned in the minutes, together with the full text of approved Handbook revisions and other policy changes, are available on the Tulane University Senate Wiki located at: tulanesenate.pbworks.com