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Minutes, September 30, 2004

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Minutes
(with corrections, noted in bolded italics)

Faculty Senate
September 30, 2004
Science Building, Room 102
11:30 a.m.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** Meeting was called to order at 11:30 by Jayne Rose. Roll Call was taken by Dan Corts. Members unable to attend were: John Hildreth, Mary Neil, Jason Peters, Rebecca Wee, and Peter Xiao. Members excused: S.A. Fenwick, Ann Ericson, Roger Crossley, Charles Hyser, and Mark Vincent.
2. **Approval of Minutes for the meetings of May 13, 2004:** Minutes were approved with one correction suggested by Dave Dehnel: Typo under item #6, New business, “The Honors committee recommended eliminating its Foundations and LOGOS” should read “The Honors committee recommended eliminating its Foundations and LOGOS subcommittees.”
3. **Report from the Office of Enrollment Management:** Marty Sauer reported the following statistics: Total number of full –time students is 2266, down 11 from last year. 599 new first year students, 76 transfer—total of 675 (target 680). Lost 7 students in first ten days of classes. Retention as projected—87.6% returned this year. Balance in this class 46% male, 54% female. 91% caucasian, 8% minority, 1 % international. Median 26 ACT, average H.S. 3.6 GPA.. Denomination—25% Lutheran, 35% Catholic, 23 % other, 17% no response. 91% from IL, 4% from IA, 5 % from elsewhere.
4. **Report from the Office of the President of the College:** President Steve Bahls
 - **Status of the Strategic Plan**

The president completed the next version which was distributed at the meeting. The president thanked faculty for their input. Most revisions were in the academic section, regarding academic research and generating independent resources to support research at the college. The college will need to generate resources first. Other changes are clarifications and prioritizing issues, such as a shifted focus to increasing diversity. The plan goes out to board at their October meeting, but the Board will not be asked to adopt this plan yet. They will need to commit to getting the resources first. They may adopt this plan at their January meeting and begin to generate resources; then they will adopt plans and sub-plans. The President expects to report on this plan annually. There appears to be fairly wide support for the plan, with some skepticism about the financing. Students are positive about the plan.

Craig VanSandt asked if future changes in the document could be tracked. The president agreed to do that.

Norm Moline asked if the move to increasing enrollment to 2500 to generate finances had been accepted. The president said that the board will look at the plan carefully and will be making specific recommendations about building, enrollment, admissions and faculty load.

Richard Ballman asked the dean about the academic program numbers on page 26. Dean Abernathy replied that to get there, we will need to do hiring and possibly use some of the adjunct faculty that we have to fill some of those positions we will need.

Other future possibilities: additional library faculty member, reduce the teaching load of new faculty by one course, support faculty research, create initiatives fund to support faculty/student co-research, offer a course release to finish a publication.

- 2004-2005 budget.
Budget is still being revised; it will be a balanced budget. Health insurance premium increase and students who left affected the budget negatively.
- Other information from the president.

The president announced the new assistant vice-president of marketing will be Debra Lukehart and the new director of Vocational Center of Reflection will be Robert Haack.

The Office of Records and Tim Schermer's office will be moving into the Dean's Office.

The president addressed the issue of student research at Augustana. The cabinet prepared a list of reasons for not allowing a psychology student proposal. The HRRC, Board and Cabinet oversee research on campus. All faculty have unlimited academic freedom. The HRRC decides the risks to the participants. The cabinet reserves the right to step in to consider whether the research would damage the college in any way. In this case, there was concern that in the eyes of many constituencies this research would be viewed as a departure from the traditions of the college. The president asked the Faculty Senate to read the opinion regarding student research techniques, not topics. President Bahls will visit the psychology class involved and suggested the faculty have a forum to discuss this issue. Currently, Augustana doesn't have policies about student academic freedom. Since we hope to encourage more student research, we will need to be clear about our policies in that regard. (A HANDOUT in regards to this was passed out during the meeting. This handout was not listed on the agenda)

Dave Dehnel asked if this action is independent of discussion of harm to participants. The president replied that is determined by HRRC and is not being second-guessed by the administration. The cabinet looked more at the harm to the institution and applied a different standard.

Dehnel asked if the matter was referred to the cabinet as part of a formal process of referral. The president explained that was not the case, but since it was referred to the cabinet, they had to consider the matter.

Faculty Senate President Rose added that the HRRC is responsible to the administration.

The President stated that if we decide as a community that this decision was a mistake, then we will look at the decision further.

5. **Report from the Dean of the College:** Dean Jeff Abernathy

- status of the Self-Study
Thanks to Bob Haak for agreeing to be the new Director of the Vocational Center. Today is the last official day at Augustana for Jack Hullett. The senate acknowledged his service.

Higher Learning Commission Chairs consists of: Craig VanSandt, Mike Wolf, Mark Vincent, Mike Finnemann and Sharon Varallo. They hope to have a draft of study by summer. The **Higher Learning Commission Steering Committee (NOT the Faculty Senate Steering Committee)** will serve as an advisory group, will meet once a month and will read drafts. The Dean asked for questions, comments, or thoughts about process, suggesting that everyone must be involved in this process.

Norm Moline asked why the college is doing the self-study *after* the strategic plan. Dean Abernathy said that he hopes the self study will be a true self-reflection and if we

determine that we have a different direction than the strategic plan, we will have to make those revisions. Lou Belby added that the self-study fulfills the criteria set up by the *NCA (not the NCAA)*.

On another topic, Dean Abernathy reported that he has written the draft about independent research and will distribute it for faculty comment.

Dean Abernathy also brought up the process for selection of chairs in future. He suggested that the process remain the same as in the past—confidential submissions from department members and then selection of chair will be made by the Dean of the College and the President.

6. **Other business**

None.

7. **Announcements**

Rose thanked the faculty for electing her as chair of faculty senate when she was absent from the planning meeting last spring.

8. **Adjournment**

Dave Dehnel motioned to adjourn; Craig VanSandt seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

If you have substantive questions about any agenda item (for example, you would like more information about a particular issue before the Senate meets), please contact the chair, Jayne Rose (x7586). If you have procedural questions about any agenda item (about how, for example, a proposal might be approved, modified or deferred), please contact the parliamentarian, David Snowball (x7581).