

10-6-1994

Minutes, October 6, 1994

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MINUTES
Faculty Senate
Thursday, October 6, 1994
College Center Board Room
12:00 noon

1. **The Meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Jim Winship, Chair. Roll was taken.** Members unable to attend: Roger Crossley, Dan Lee, Charlie Mahaffey, Lou Belby, Robert Haak, John Hildreth, Chuck Hyser, Taddy Kalas and John Pollitz.

2. Upon a Motion by Mary Em Kirn, the **Minutes for the meeting of September 7, 1994, were approved with the following change:** In paragraph #8, Suzan McGinnis' name was misspelled.

3. **Updated Enrollment Report -- Mike Kirn**

An updated Enrollment Report was distributed; this revised report reflects no change in the total number of enrollments. The report reflects 2,002 full-time students this year, well over the estimated target of 1,946. This represents a significant increase of 52 students (1 male, 51 females) from last year's total enrollment of 1,950. Mike Kirn added that the percentage of women enrolled has been increasing over the years. The current enrollment reflects 58% women and 42% men. He added that the first-year class was right at a 60/40 split of women and men.

Gary Mann asked about attrition. Mike Kirn responded that Tim Schermer was working on this. Jim Winship stated that President Tredway and Provost Nelson were both at the ACUMEN meeting today, so they could not attend today's Senate meeting. He added that attrition, retention and enrollment are all important issues, and that they would be covered in a future faculty forum(s). Dean Selbyg commented that the numbers are good, and that retention is up and attrition is down.

4. **Proposed 1995 Summer School Calendar -- Dean Selbyg -- EPC**

Dean Selbyg presented the 1995 Summer Session Calendar to the meeting. He commented that the credit hours generated have been

declining since 1990, possibly due to the increasing tuition rates. He suggested that changes may be necessary at a later date.

Upon a motion by Dean Selbyg, **seconded** by Dave Hill, the proposed Summer School Calendar was **approved**.

5. Discussion of U.S. News and World Report College Rankings and Augustana's status -- Dean Selbyg

Dean Selbyg began by stating that there had previously been concern by many as to these rankings. Augustana had previously been listed in the 4th quartile. Since then we have been re-classified, and now we are more comparable. We would like to be in the second quartile, but our 'in the middle' current rankings are acceptable, and shouldn't be a cause for concern.

It was further noted that it was very possible that the data given are not entirely accurate and may account for some of the numbers/rankings.

It was noted that the higher ranked schools also charge higher tuition, with few exceptions. Also, our graduation rates have gone up; our actual graduation rate is 72-73%. That will be reflected over the next year so those numbers in our ranking will improve.

Questions were put forth as to how to get a higher ranking (get higher gifts, give inaccurate data, delete the admission fee, etc.) and as far as our academic reputation, how much money and effort would be worth spending to get us 'better known'. It was noted that the ranking information comes from the East Coast for the most part, so that this is a problem for us in our geographical area.

Dean Selbyg added that the percentage of Augustana's alumni who give money to the College is very good - 40%.

6. Committee Work in Progress -- Jim Winship

(a) Educational Policies -- Transfer Credit Discussions

Discussions have been held as to practices in transfer credits, and whether or not we should only accept courses in which

students have received a "C" or better and not accept a "D" or lower. Another question that has come up is whether or not only courses at Augustana should count. In other words, should the focus be made on what a student does at Augustana and not at other colleges? And should Augustana accept higher grades from other schools as representative showing of a student's merit?

AS&D's current practice is to consider and count all work and accept "D's" for credit from other schools. 'Augustana' GPA, 'Other' GPA and 'Combined' GPA are used. A possible change would be to accept credits but not future grades, i.e. grades would not be transferred.

Another consideration is the possible implication of allowing students to repeat coursework to improve their grades. Augustana students are not allowed to do this; would transfer students be allowed to repeat coursework?

AS&D has sent these questions to EPC for review and action, then will report back to the Senate. AS&D's report is available for those who would like a copy.

(b) Faculty Welfare -- Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Evaluation Report

This has been previously discussed in a faculty forum (the Snowball Report). Discussion by the committee has included:

(1) Model templates for alternatives are being discussed;

(2) Untenured faculty did not speak at the forum; only tenured faculty spoke. The Computer Center will prepare a listserv option to be used on the electronic bulletin board for anonymous discussion of issues. Hopefully this will provide a less 'risky' opportunity for discussion, and will therefore lead to more 'open' discussions; and

(3) There will probably be a series of fora on tenure and evaluations.

Dean Selbyg spoke further on this matter. The 'Snowball Report' was sent back to Faculty Welfare last spring, and then

tabled until the Provost was named. The matter will now go back to Faculty Welfare.

According to the Computer Center, a listserv discussion group can be worked out whereby information is submitted and posted for general reading. There is no such thing as 'anonymous' e-mail available on our system, thus we'll have to resort to the 'gatekeeper' idea.

A volunteer is needed to accept and then post the information, a 'gatekeeper' of sorts who would maintain anonymity. Basically then this would be a 'bulletin board' type function. Nominations for such a volunteer should be submitted to the Office of the Provost.

Other suggestions and ideas are welcome.

7. Other Business

(a) NCA Accreditation Visit this year -- Dean Selbyg

Two committees have been formed to prepare for this visit: a self-study report committee and an assessment plan committee.

(b) Future Senate Meetings -- Jim Winship

The December and January meetings will most likely be heavy with course revisions, et al, in preparation for the new catalog.

8. Announcements -- Jim Winship

(a) In addition to the appointments listed on the Agenda and announced at this meeting (Senate Parliamentarian and Supportive Services Committee appointments), it was announced that Jen-Mei Ma has been appointed to serve on the Human Relations Committee.

(b) Jim Winship will represent the Faculty Senate at the upcoming Board Meeting.

(c) George Dehne (from last year's meeting at the Mark) will be meeting with various focus groups next week regarding admission policies and materials.

(d) There have been 35-60 people at the Friday afternoon Faculty Fora. The next forum will be held on October 14th, and John Kindschuh will speak on plans for the new science center and other planning issues.

Upon a motion, **seconded** by Dave Dehnel, the **meeting adjourned** at 1:00 p.m.

Tamara Felden
Secretary