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Minutes, November 9, 1999

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MINUTES
Faculty Senate
November 9, 1999
Science Building, Room 102

1. **The meeting was called to order by Doug Nelson, ranking member of Senate Steering Committee at 11:38 a.m. Roll was taken.** Members unable to attend: Robert Johnson, Norm Moline, James Winship, Karin Youngberg, Taddy Kalas, Sonja Knudsen, Vicki Sommer.
Excused Absence: Mary Em Kirn and Michael Schroeder.
2. Upon a **motion** by Bob Tallitsch and **seconded** by Marian Miller, **the minutes of September 21, 1999 were approved.**
3. **Proposed 2000 Summer School Schedule:** - Rick Jurasek
The **motion** for acceptance of the schedule by David Hill and **seconded** by Dave Snowball was **approved.**
4. Larry McCallum replaced acting Senate Chair, Doug Nelson for the remainder of the meeting.
5. **Nominations and Rules** –Larry McCallum
Nominations and Rules committee made a **recommendation** for the following changes, **seconded** by Darrin Good:
 - a. Committee Nominations
 - Athletics – Lou Belby (2000) (Replacing Rick Turnquist)
 - Foreign Study – Phillip Villani (2001) (Replacing Curt Holder)
 - Gender Equity and Awareness – Kathleen Suchenski (2000)
 - Permanent Art Collection – Greg MacAyeal (20000)
 - b. Informational Items
 - 1) Elected to the Convocation Committee on a three-year rotating term
 - Fine and Performing Arts – Heidi Hamilton (2001)
 - Languages and Literature – Virginia Johnson (2003)
 - Natural Sciences – Jon Clauss (2001)
 - History, Philosophy and Religion – Ritva Williams (2002)
 - Business and Education – Charles Hyser (2003)
 - Social Sciences – John Guidry (2002)
 - 2) Elected to Humanities Fund Committee
 - Vicki Sommer (2002)

The motion was **approved.**

6. **Report from Advanced Standing and Degrees – Mike Kirn**
 - a. Advanced Standing and Degrees **recommended** that the list of candidates for Fall term graduation be accepted subject to completion of all requirements. Dara Wegman-Geedey **seconded** the motion. It was **approved**.
 - b. Advanced Standing and Degrees **recommended** that the Standards for Academic Honors for the 1999-2000 academic year remain 3.75 for *magna cum laude* and 3.90 for *summa cum laude*. Beth Campbell seconded the motion. During the discussion of the motion, Mike Kirn reported that for the 1998-1999 academic year, 32.2% of the graduating class graduated with honors, compared to 14.6% in 1971. The discussion then addressed the concern of grade inflation. Mike Kirn reminded the Senate that Advanced Standing and Degrees had previously investigated the high percentage of honors and reported its findings to the Senate, although no action was taken. It was also pointed out that our percentage of graduates graduating with honors is comparable to our peer institutions, and lower than some elite institutions. The motion to accept the Standards was **approved**.
7. **Interim Report on Art Building – Barbara Doyle-Wilch**
 - a. Barbara Doyle-Wilch reviewed the timeline of the construction of the new Art Building as well as the subsequent air quality complaints and studies addressing those complaints.
 - b. Although no irritants were found to be above threshold levels as determined by chemical analyses of air samples, significant complaints about the air quality persisted. In an attempt to determine the cause(s) of these complaints, another study was initiated. As of August 1999, the latest study recommended that the building be separated into discrete zones for air handling. These revisions would cost \$550,000. The cost of the initial construction was \$750,000. There was considerable discussion about possible solutions. It was noted that although absolute safety for persons of different sensitivities is an impossibility, the College would in no way endanger the personal safety of students or staff.
8. **Other Business**

There was no other business.
9. **Announcements**
 - a. The next Senate meeting will be December 14th, not December 7th as previously stated.
 - b. The Faculty Fora on the Faculty Handbook are scheduled for December 2nd, 7th and January 6th at 11:30 am each day. Materials can be found on the S:drive in addition to the copies that are being sent to each department.
10. **Adjournment**

Jonathan Miller **moved** to adjourn the meeting and David Snowball **seconded** the motion. The meeting was **adjourned** at 12:28 p.m.

Dennis Gallo
Secretary