Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
September 20, 2004

Present:  M. Anderson  M. Baum  D. Bergeron  L. Bianco
B. Borim  E. Carreiro  Q. Fan  D. Georgianna
P. Gibbs  J. Griffith  X. Haiping  A. Hausknecht
B. Jacobskind  F. Karakaya  Y. Kim  G. Koot
R. Kowalczyk  S. Krumholz  K. Langley  S. Leclair
J. Leffers  K. Manning  H. Michel  A. Mollo
N. O’Connor  S. Peterson  D. Rancour  M. Roy
F. Scarano  S. Scott  S. Sousa  K. Stokesbury
L. Sun  E. Winiarz  M. Zarrillo


Absent:  B. Barnes  D. Boerth  L. Cheng  P. Currier
A. Gunasekeran  O. Khalil  R. Laoulache  E. Ojadi
D. Prentice  B. Singh  P. Szatek  L. Travers

Guests:  B. Green  T. Curry  L. Esposito  R. Panofsky

Susan Leclair, Senate President opened the meeting at 3: 34 pm.

1. Minutes of May 10, 2004 presented. Motion to approve, Kenneth Manning, 2nd Eileen Carreriro. Motion carried.

2. Susan Leclair presents Senate Steering Committee report. The Steering Committee met over the summer to review committee charges and to appoint committee members. Seats were set aside on committees for new faculty.

Met with Chancellor and Provost at end of school year. Focus of those meetings was on new graduation model.

Kenneth Langley reported that just prior to Freshman Convocation there was a notice that the Faculty Federation President he was not welcome on the stage at Convocation. K. Langley, on behalf of the FSS, moves:

The Faculty Senate wishes to voice its disapproval of the removal of the Faculty Federation President from the Freshman Convocation. For over thirty years the faculty
have been represented by two official organizations: The Faculty Federation and the Faculty Senate. We expect that, in the future, the faculty shall be represented by both bodies at all official university functions.

Adam Hausknecht seconds. Motion carried without discussion.

3. Committee reports

3.1 S. Scott for computer users committee.

Computer Users Committee (CUC) made the following recommendations in response to committee charges:

(A) To develop recommendations for the streamlining and computerization of grade submission and degree certification for implementation by May 2004.

The CUC Committee recommends to the Faculty Senate:

* Faculty electronic reporting of student grades be delayed until the implementation of PeopleSoft in fall 2005.
* We recommend that electronic reporting through the PeopleSoft system be optional for the 2005/2006 academic year.
* LSIRT provide faculty training during this period.
* The responsibility and method for accomplishing this should rest with each academic department (eg. faculty input, department secretary input).
* The Faculty Senate endorse use of the currently available SIS certification feature by all faculty and encourage all academic units to arrange faculty training on its use with Josh Berry in the registrar’s office.

Eileen Carriero made motion to accept CUC’s recommendation (A), 2nd Robert Kowalczyk.

Discussion followed about student reporting system of PeopleSoft (ISIS). Robert Green reported that ISIS will go live in February. There was some concern about functionality of PeopleSoft. R. Green replied that this is the system we have, and while there may be a learning curve, faculty will find it functional. Richard Panofsky noted that there is a good help section. Discussion around level of computer savvy needed to file grades. Request for short presentation of ISIS.

Gerard Koot asked about department responsibilities. Shouldn’t require more work than what is now required.
Can students self-audit? Already can. Student access allowed as of this fall.

Amend dates in motion to reflect that ISIS will be ready for use in Spring 2005 (replace “Fall 2005” with “Spring 2005”). Motion carried.

(B) To investigate anti-plagiarism software.
The CUC recommends that the Faculty Senate appoint and charge a steering committee to:

1. Seek administrative recognition for and cooperation with its efforts on academic honesty, explore systemic approaches to the issue of academic integrity used at other institutions of higher learning (e.g. a campus honor code), make recommendations for the development of a comprehensive program of academic integrity for this campus, map out the process through which the program would be implemented.

2. Assess the needs of faculty regarding types of detection software. This committee might include the Academic Ethical Matters Facilitator and representatives from the Faculty Senate Ethical Standards Committee, the Student Judiciary, the Appellate Board, the Student Orientation Committee, the Library, the English Department, the Philosophy Department, the Provost’s Office, and other interested academic units. The CUC would work with this committee by identifying and recommending appropriate electronic tools.

James Griffith moved to accept CUC recommendation (B); Sharon Sousa 2nd. A question was asked about the time frame for implementation and Suzanne Scott replied that they thought it could be accomplished for fall ‘05. She noted the importance of awareness, making dissemination a component.

Motion carried.

3.2 Bob Green to update about electronic classrooms.

Ongoing effort to improve classrooms (“learning environments”) —technology, functionality, seats, white boards, etc. Did 30 this summer; 17 done previously. Total of 72 classrooms; 47 are complete. Success of some changes to be observed before moving forward. Faculty can provide feedback at: classroomadvise@umassd.edu They are seeking input, suggestions, advice. Will be upgrading a few more classrooms over January break.

Thanks to many.
Other items of note:
* Faculty classroom computer program; applicants will be notified in a week or two.
* Web CT coming soon.
* Randy Bass will be speaking on teaching with technology—next Monday.
* Classrooms assignments already set for spring.

Robert Green was asked: do we have a system for backing up hard drives? CITS is assessing and spec-ing campus-wide storage system.

Preview of system was requested. Presentation of ISIS software will be made at the November Senate meeting.

4. New Business

Adam Hausknecht wants some exploration of how TAs are selected. Richard Panofsky reported that there are a set of rules, but they need to be gathered, streamlined, and published. Adam Hausknecht made motion to set up task force to codify practices for hiring and evaluating graduate student and teaching assistants. 2nd S. Sousa. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn made by Louis Bianco, 2nd James Griffith. Meeting adjourned at 4:45.