To: Faculty  
From: Susan Farrell, Faculty Secretary  
About: November 1 Senate Meeting  

The Faculty Senate met on Tuesday, November 1 for about an hour and a half. Here are the highlights (full minutes to follow later):

**Highlights**

--Provost Elise Jorgens announced that the new plus/minus grading policy will be implemented in fall semester of 2006. She explained that she hadn't anticipated the "level of anxiety" her request to delay implementation of this policy would cause on campus. The Academic Standards Committee will continue to conduct research into the effects of the policy, and will be responsible for tracking average GPA's at the college over the next four or five years. The Provost does not expect a marked difference in average GPA's over this period, but thinks it is important we gather as much information about the effects of the new policy as possible.

--Speaker Bob Mignone reported that the general education forums held on October 24th and 25th were very successful, with over 60 attendees each day. The Ad-hoc General Education Committee plans to distill out and synthesize the goals and objectives suggested at the forums and by departments and bring a list for Senate approval sometime next spring.

--Two proposals put forth by the Curriculum Committee--a change in prerequisite for ECON 320 and changes to the degree requirements for the Film Studies Minor--passed on a voice vote.

--Two proposals brought by the Committee on Graduate Education--a Master of Arts in Communication and a change in program requirements for the M.Ed. in Languages--passed on a voice vote.

--After lengthy discussion, the New Admission Policy for the School of Business and Economics (brought by the Academic Standards Committee) was voted down.

--A motion brought by Glen Lesses for the Academic Planning Committee to consider the issue of non-credit experiences appearing on academic transcripts, was passed after being amended to read as follows: "The Academic Planning Committee shall review the treatment of non-credit experiences on the academic transcript and report with a recommendation to the Senate by the February 2006 meeting."

--During the Constituents' Concerns portion of the meeting, Jack Parsons raised questions about a change in language in the advertisement for a new Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences. Mr. Parsons pointed out that language describing the college as a "pre-eminent liberal arts and sciences university" was taken out of the advertisement. Provost Jorgens responded by informing the faculty that she asked for the change in language.
She added that, after numerous conversations with President Higdon, the deans, and other groups on campus, she has been working on a white paper suggesting a different way to think about the College. The reality of the situation, the Provost argued, is that we're not a liberal arts college; the language describing us in these terms is misleading because of our large size and the complexity of our mission. Her white paper, when finished, will suggest a new way to promote the College for what we actually are. She hopes to finish this paper in the next few months and then open a conversation with faculty about it.

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