

# Academic Senate Summary

Monday, April 21, 2008

3:15 – 5:00 p.m.

EDC 117

**Present:** Allen, Allison, Alpers, Anderson, Blasko, Brewis, Broman, Burg, Bush, Capaldi, Christiansen, Coffman, Comfort, Crow, Cruz-Torres, DiFelice, Doty, Drucker, Elliott, Ellis, Fabricius, Facinelli, Fromme, Gitelson (at West), Gonzalez-Santin, Grace, Guleserian, Harp, Karcher, Kingston, Kinnier, Komnenich, Kopta, Koshinsky, Kostelich, Liu, Magana, Margolis, Maris, McPhee, Moorhead, Mossman, Ossipov, Pardo, Restrepro, Rez, Roen, Romero, Rose, Saenz, Schneller, Schultz, Shaeffer, Simonhoff, Winter, Sousa, Stump, Thompson, Tompkins, Trotta, Tsakalis, VanderMeer, Vaughan (at Poly), Verdini, Vernon, Watson, Wheeler

**Substitutes:** Kevin Ellsworth for deLusé

**Absent:** Allenby, Barclay, Blanchard (with prior notice) Bodman (?), H. Campbell, Carter, Cobas, Colbourn, Cook, Gopalan, Guerin, Hajicek, Happel, Henn, Heys, Hoffmeister, Ingalls, Jackson, Konomos, Lara-Valencia, Mathur, McNeill, Minter, Morton, Ovando, Pinholster, Roedel, Rush, Shah, Sloane, Stewart, Strom, Sullivan, Teye, Thomas, Whitecotton, Wiesel, Williams, Wutich, Ye

## 1. CALL TO ORDER (Bill Verdini).

The meeting was called to order by Senate President Bill Verdini at 3:15 p.m. This meeting was televised to all campuses.

## 2. UNIVERSITY PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS

### A. Senate President's Report (Bill Verdini)

We are conducting elections for Assembly officers and grievance bodies now. There is still time to vote. A few problems have been reported about how the ballot is accessed but most have been resolved. Please vote and encourage colleagues to vote up until April 25, 2008.

I was supposed to get a report from the Faculty Athletic Representative Myles Lynk for today's meeting, but I have not received it yet. I have seen some reports and we are doing pretty well this year in terms of academics and athletics. As soon as Myles report comes to me, I will see that you all get a copy. This is my last Senate meeting and I hope you reserve me a few moments at the end to say a few words but now I would like to call Dr. Crow to the podium.

### B. University President's Report (Michael Crow)

I want to start by giving you a view from my perspective of items related to the performance of the institution this semester. This semester I can report that things are going anywhere from good to very good on a scale where excellent is the highest. We have some stress and stains that I will mention in a little bit but on the good side:

We have a record number of applications in the history of the institution, those applications reveal a record level of quality, diversity, and student distribution. We had over 100,000 students request information about Arizona State University. We have spent a fair amount of energy and resources on being able to give those students a robust set of information about the university

many times but my special thanks goes to Liz, Samantha, and Bree who is not here today—these three students carried an enormous burden and responsibility and for anyone who ever had a concern about students working with our faculty on university items, I can tell you at every meeting they were the best prepared, sometimes better than the chair and I am impressed with the work that you have done and I want you to know that.

The proposed amendments: After our first reading on these last time, I had a request from the WP Carey School and they have two departments in which they have established critical tracking courses and grades of B (and not B-) must be earned; the original resolution that I brought to you at our last meeting did not anticipate a margin of B or B- so perhaps someday someone will establish a critical tracking course in which a grade of A will meet that requirement. I rewrote the entire thing in a general way so that “any grade above B” would then require the unit that is imposing the requirement to set up a procedure to determine whether a student got a grade that would be higher than B—remembering that if you get a grade of D or E, existing university policy already allows you to retake the course but if a critical tracking grade is established as a B, the academic unit that is imposing that requirement has to consider the student retaking the course and retracking that grade. In the absence of such a review, the student would fail to get the proper grade and they would not be allowed to continue, and would by definition eventually be off track. It is now a motion before you but I first need a motion to accept the amendments.

President Verdini: Coming before you is a motion for a second reading. That motion is on the floor for debate. The first thing that is being proposed here is to amend that motion to include the language that Senator Kingston just introduced. Is there a second for those amendments?  
Seconded.

Senator Kingston: We will vote on the amendments and if they pass we will have a second vote on the amended motion. Is there discussion on the amendments? None. All in favor of the amendments? Opposed? (1). The motion passed by a voice vote of those present.

The amended resolution is now before you. Is there discussion on the amended resolution? None. All in favor? Opposed? None. The resolution passed by a voice vote of those present.

**Senate Resolution #31 (2007-2008) (Second Reading) (REVISED as amended and passed:**

**“WHEREAS** each academic unit has developed a list of critical tracking requirements for first time freshman entering Arizona State University on or after August 15, 2007; and

**WHEREAS** some academic units have included in their critical tracking requirements at least one course in which a grade (of B-) **higher than D** must be earned; and

**WHEREAS** current university policy only permits students to repeat a course or courses if they have earned a grade of D or E; and

**WHEREAS** a grade (of C-, C or C+) **higher than D but less than the grade** required in such a critical tracking course (or courses) would not satisfy the critical tracking requirement; and

**WHEREAS** a student in such a circumstance would not be permitted to repeat the course under current university policy; and

WHEREAS some critical tracking courses are offered outside of the academic unit which has established the critical tracking requirements for their majors; therefore be it

RESOLVED that each academic unit which has imposed a (*B-*) minimum grade requirement in one or more critical tracking courses above the grade of D must establish appeals policies and procedures for students who receive grades (*of C or C+*) **above the grade of D but below those required to meet critical tracking requirements** in such courses—whether taught inside or outside the academic unit—to determine whether these students will be allowed to repeat such courses; and be it further

RESOLVED that the opportunity to repeat a critical tracking course, if an appeal is approved, be subject to course availability at the time the student attempts to register for the repeated course; and be it further

RESOLVED that the impact on a student's cumulative GPA of any course repeated under this policy be processed by the Registrar's office in the same manner that all repeated courses are processed in determining the student's end-of-semester cumulative grade point average."

(*with italics*) denotes words omitted by the amendment.

**Boldface** denotes words added by the amendment.

**6. NEW BUSINESS** (Reports from Committees/New Motions/Resolutions).

**A. Executive Committee** (Bill Verdini). No report. Is there anything from Committee on Committees?

**B. Committee on Committees** (Tory Trotta)

JUST VOTE!

President Verdini: Vote in both elections--we are voting for the Assembly elections and we are also voting on the revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws. Please vote and encourage your colleagues to do the same.

**C. Curriculum and Academic Programs Committee** (Duane Roen gave the report earlier)

**D. Personnel Committee** (Bob McPhee gave his report earlier).

**E. Student Faculty Policy Committee** (Jerry Kingston gave his report earlier).

**F. University Affairs Committee** (Rojann Alpers gave her final report)

I would like to offer a final report for our committee (for information only) because there is soon to be a name change for us, to the University Policy and Procedures Committee.

We had a single charge this year and that was to work with the University Academic Council to look at all of the Constitutions on all the campuses to attempt to reconcile and to report the best from all of them to the attention of the University Academic Council and to work with them in moving forward in becoming a unified University Senate. We have done so. I would like to thank the Committee: Richard Burg, Jose Nanez; Ken Sullivan; and for a brief time Tom Witt. They were very reflective on their comments and very timely and we did a lot of our work via email and I appreciated their quick response and their comments from them on the University Affairs Committee. On a personal note I want to thank the Executive Committee for an opportunity to be a part of a very exciting time and to work with some outstanding colleagues. Thank you.