

General Senate Meeting Minutes

1 November 2011

1. Call to order at 11:02 a.m.

2. Announcements

a. President's retirement as of July 1, 2011

The President noted that while the decision to retire this year wasn't an easy one, the Academy is in a good place to make a leadership transition.

There is a new search procedure for CSU Presidents; campus visits by candidates are now optional. The President asks faculty to do some pre-thinking about what we are looking for collectively.

B. Schmid noted that the President represents us in Washington at MARAD and nationally with industry. What skill set do we want and whom will we entrust with this representation?

A press release has already been sent to maritime publications and other maritime academies. The search is likely to start in February 2012.

- b. Openings for 2013-14 International Programs Resident Director Assignments: See B. Schmid for information on programs in China, France, Italy, Japan, and Spain.
- c. Senate Moodle page: The Academic Senate has a Moodle page with PDF versions of all current Senate policies and notes from 2011-2012 meetings. Senate elections will be conducted via Moodle.
- d. Recruitment for Vice President of Finance: B. Schmid encourages faculty to participate in the interview process with two candidates.

3. MT/MarOps merger

B. Schmid noted that the rationale for the merger is to clarify the role of faculty in MarOps. Another advantage would be the sharing of advising and teaching loads.

Possible downsides include loss of a critical, niche department. Some concerns have been voiced about potential loss of academic influence on ship operations and greater gulf between academics and ship ops.

The MarOps Chair will cease to exist. Peter Hayes will be the Chair of MT in January 2012. If there is a desire, there could be another election after the merger, but that may not be necessary.

Question: Will the salary budget for MarOps roll into MT? President: yes.

Provost says that with this change, we will be treating MarOps faculty as faculty.

There will be a change of the composition of Senate committees. Uniform faculty will lose some representation. We could look at revising our policies for filling committees if desired.

Curriculum will stay the same.

4. Pre-Req grades for Commercial Cruise students

There has been an ongoing problem with some sophomore students being unable to go on commercial cruise due to failing pre-req classes and not learning this until just before cruise starts. Cruise companies are not happy having to re-fill billets that had been filled by students who failed. Competition for these billets is getting fiercer and we do not want to jeopardize our relationships with participating companies.

President says we're not considering eliminating pre-reqs but rather looking for a way to communicate better. Possibly we could generate an advance notice that certain students are questionable, which would allow the company to schedule those students for July rather than May. Other solutions to this issue may be generated at the department level. B. Schmid suggests this balancing of industry relations will be more of an issue as we develop internships across the Academy, not just in the MT department.

There was a suggestion that we utilize our current early warning system to communicate with cruise companies. Also, students need advising as to consequences for themselves and the Academy when they fail a cruise pre-req.

Another issue is lack of faculty to offer summer classes to students who fail a cruise pre-req. This safety net will be gone now that we are going to one cruise. Do we want to have a rotating group of faculty who don't go on cruise that teach in summer?

5. Amendments to “Student Originated Requests for Change of Grade” policy. Rather than putting this to a Senate-wide vote, B. Schmid announced that we will treat this as a procedural change and address in Senate Exec Committee.
6. Recruitment and appointment of academic administrators policy. B. Schmid suggested additional language to address concerns from last meeting. He will send a new draft to faculty to review.
7. Topics for Faculty retreat in January

Provost has indicated support for a happy hour/social hour at the end of retreat.

It was suggested that we address academic calendar at retreat. Another suggestion made to look at how to assign units to classes. A related concern was brought up about student workload. Is it impacting quality of education?

President noted that there is CSU guidance for how units are assigned, based on recently updated Dept. of Education definition of credit hour. This was a rewording, not a fundamental change of definition. Labs are more difficult to assign credits to than a lecture course.

Senate Secretary will create a forum on Moodle to solicit further ideas for retreat topics.

Adjournment at 11:48.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Michele Van Hoeck