

Minutes of CAS Faculty Senate meeting, October 16, 2017, 104 Gore Hall, 4pm

Present: J. Alcantara-Garcia, E. Bell, M. Dominguez Torres, M. Donovan, L. Duggan, D. Galileo, P. Gentry, J. Gizis, R. Hanley, A. Hayes, A. Hicks, T. Holden, K. Jasinska, S. Kaufman, Y. Leung, B. Levy, J. Martin, B. McKenna, S. McKenna, J. Morgan, J. Morrison, J. Oestreich, O. Olabisi, L. Overby, S. Patel, R. Rawat, K. Rosenberg, A. Sarzynsky, J. Serrano, D. Smith, L. Timmins, G. Watson

Absent: M. Cotsell, M. Khan, D. Lopez-Gydosh, Y. Payne

Also present: A. Barrier, D. Doren

- I. The meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM
- II. The agenda was approved
- III. The minutes of the September 2017 meeting were approved
- IV. D. Allen and J. Fajardo made a presentation on the Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning (CIRTL). Originally started at the University of Wisconsin, it is now an international network of approximately 40 institutions. CIRTL's mission is to enhance excellence in undergraduate education. It is aimed at graduate students and postdocs, involving them in effective teaching practices, teaching as research, and training them to document their teaching achievements. UD was invited to join in the 4th wave of expansion. The organization originally had a STEM focus but is now open to all fields. UD faculty can be involved by supporting graduate student and postdoc involvement, promoting engagement, accommodating Teaching-as-Research (TAR) projects in the classroom, and mentoring TAR projects. There were a number of questions and answers. Email is a good way to make contact with CIRTL. The time commitment for graduate students could be as little as one event in a year or as much as a TAR research project. Longitudinal studies show that graduate students involved with CIRTL do not take any longer to complete their degree than other students. The journal club mentioned on the webpage is a way for those who have completed TAR projects to continue to be involved; this is for the future since the effort is just starting at UD. There are also online journal clubs. CIRTL has no role in training students to be high school teachers.
- V. N. Nash made a presentation on the Blue Hens Success Collaborative (BHSC). Its website is <http://sites.udel.edu/bluehensuccess/>. The pilot has been completed and all pertinent faculty and staff now have access. It is designed to work in tandem with UDSIS with easy linkage to other UD systems. Please contact N. Nash for individual, small group, or department trainings. There were a number of questions and answers. The system was said to be very nice to use. Can an advisor get access for a walk-on advisee? Faculty who are not advisors have very limited access, but faculty with advisor permission should be able to look up individual students. Is UDSIS going away? No, this system is for active advising but it is not a system of record. The

system updates with UDSIS nightly. There was a discussion of broader advising issues, such as with students changing majors between colleges. This tool is not designed to fix all problems. Can the students see appointments on the site? The system is currently for faculty and staff, not students. However, it is possible to take an extra step to invite and allow students to self-schedule appointments. This is a more advanced feature not recommended for novice users.

- VI. Remarks by Senate President: No remarks.
- VII. Remarks by Dean: For the 4th year in a row, a CAS faculty member has won the Francis Alison Society's Gerard J. Mangone Young Scholars Award. Robin Morgan is now Interim Provost. She has served as chair of the Department of Biological Sciences. The 11th annual Nobel Symposium, organized by D. Doren, will be next Wednesday (October 25).
- VIII. Report of the Educational Affairs Committee: A. Barrier noted that many proposals are coming to the next Senate meeting and Senators should not leave their review of them until the day of the meeting. She has a number of practical user tips for Curriculog which will be shared by email.
- IX. Old Business: The decline in UD's ranking on US News and World Report and a resolution to form an ad hoc committee to study it was discussed. B. McKenna made brief remarks to emphasize that this was not meant as an adversarial process. Rather, we are interested in what have we done to affect the rankings, and what can we as a college do to improve the trends? J. Morgan made a detailed and informative presentation with data from US News and World Report comparing UD and U. Connecticut's relative performance in the categories considered. He argued that rankings are important to prospective students and parents; evidence includes links to peer-reviewed articles and our own UD recruitment materials. He argued that a university senate committee would act too slowly and would not adequately represent our college's interests. There was a spirited discussion. The RBB budget system and other actions and statements by the Harker Administration were heavily criticized. The small class size and alumni donation metrics were discussed in particular. It was observed that US News and World Report does not include diversity in its rankings but the ad hoc committee would consider it. While some senators endorsed the formation of a committee, others considered it a poor use of resources, and likely duplicative of efforts by the university administration. Senators speculated that President Assanis would welcome the proposed ad hoc committee's work.

Dean Watson provided his view of the proposed ad hoc committee. University leadership has been discussing American Association of Universities (AAU) membership for UD and regularly discusses rankings and the underlying metrics and data. He gave the example that if English 110 were taught in sections of 19 students instead of 22 that would improve the rankings, but this would require additional resources. He noted that the UD has improved its raw score, but some other universities have improved their raw score more. Central administration is already

considering these issues. He concluded that he does not welcome this ad hoc committee and does not believe the President would welcome it either.

Senate President S. Kaufman suggested that since it was now getting late that it would be better to adjourn and postpone further discussion until the next meeting. There was some confusion over parliamentary procedure.

A motion to consider the proposed resolution at the next meeting was seconded and passed.

- X. The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 PM.