

FACULTY SENATE
Tuesday, March 23, 2010
3:30 – 5:15 pm
Senate Chamber, Old Capitol

MINUTES

- Senators Present: D. Anderson, S. Bishara, D. Black, C. Bohannon, G. Buettner, H. Butcher, E. Ernst, J. Fieselmann, T. Gross, P. Hanley, G. Jogerst, B. Justman, C. Kletzing, S. Kurtz, E. Lawrence, D. Look, T. Mangum, J. Menninger, D. Morris, J. Polumbaum, R. Rajagopal, G. Russell, M. Sauder, C. Scott-Conner, V. Sharp, P. Snyder, C. Sponsler, S. Staggs, T. Stalter, R. Wachtel, E. Wasserman, R. Williams, S. Wilson, M Wilson Kimber, N. Zavazava.
- Officers Present: E. Dove, D. Drake, M. O’Hara, K. Tachau.
- Senators Excused: N. Andreasen, A. Campbell, J. Garfinkel, P. Mobily, J. Reist, L. Richman, S. Schultz, N. Street, T. Vaughn, S. Vincent, J. Wilcox.
- Senators Absent: E. Anderson, J. Beckman, J. Bertolatus, M. Fang, S. Gardner, E. Gidal, D. Hammond, C. Helms, K. Kader, L. Kirsch, J. Kline, T. Kresowik, D. Macfarlane, C. McCarthy, S. McGuire, B. McMurray, F. Mitros, R. Mutel, J. Pendergast, B. Rakel, L. Robertson, A. Sanchez, T. Schnell, W. Sharp, H. Stecopoulos, R. Valentine, M. VanBeek, J. Wadsworth, L. Wang, C. Woodman.
- Guests: J. Carlson (Office of the President), H. Chang (former student), B. Ingram (Office of the Provost), A. Lothson (*Gazette*), B. Morelli (*Press-Citizen*), T. Rice (Office of the Provost), T. Rocklin (Student Services), M. Takacs (Emergency Medicine), L. Zaper (Faculty Senate).

- I. Call to Order – President Drake called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm.
<http://www.uiowa.edu/~facsen/archive/documents/Agenda.FacultySenate.03.23.10.pdf>
- II. Approvals
- A. Meeting Agenda – Professor Fieselman moved and Professor Bishara seconded that the agenda be approved. The motion was unanimously approved.
 - B. Faculty Senate Minutes (February 2, 2010) – Professor Justman moved and Professor Kurtz seconded that the minutes be approved. The motion was unanimously approved.
 - C. Committee Replacements (Edwin Dove, Chair, Committee on Committees)
 - None at this time

III. New Business

- *Alcohol Safety Issues (Victoria Sharp, Special Assistant to the Provost for Alcohol Safety and Michael Takacs, Emergency Medicine)*

Professor Sharp gave a PowerPoint presentation on *Alcohol: Harm Reduction*. The data she presented indicates that UI students use alcohol and engage in binge drinking at higher rates than the national averages. UI students are also less likely to engage in protective behaviors (staying with a group, eating before/during drinking, acting as a designated driver) than do students nationally. The incidence of UI students suffering such harm, as experiencing or causing physical injury, is also higher. Professor Sharp indicated that access and availability, along with Iowa City's location in the upper Midwest, are major factors contributing to this situation. Access includes geography (proliferation of alcohol-serving establishments in close proximity to campus), pricing (low pricing of hard liquor), and bar entry age (individuals under legal age for drinking but who are at least 19 are allowed to enter or remain in bars after 10 pm). While 70% of UI students may engage in binge drinking, only 30% of the city's public intoxication arrests are of UI students. This points to Iowa City's reputation as a drinking destination, attracting students and other individuals from the surrounding areas.

Professor Sharp then turned to a discussion of what can be done to reduce the harm associated with alcohol. Intervention can be made at three levels: individual, student population, and community. There are several variables that can influence a student's attitude toward alcohol consumption prior to the arrival at college: family, public policy, alcohol environment, and social/institutional structure. In college, these variables include individual attitudes and experiences, the college environment, and the alcohol environments on and off campus. Possible strategies to combat the problem include raising expectations and imposing sanctions, providing alternative activities, reducing access, and providing education and treatment.

Professor Takacs gave a PowerPoint presentation on the *Role of Friday Classes and Alcohol Consumption*. He presented survey data from an article entitled "College Student Alcohol Consumption, Day of the Week, and Class Schedule," which particularly examined the correlation between Thursday drinking and the presence/absence of Friday classes. This study suggested that excessive Thursday drinking was moderated by the presence of Friday morning classes. Professor Takacs then discussed his own unpublished research looking at the relationship between class schedule and alcohol-related emergencies from Thursday evening through Friday morning. If an 18- to 22-year-old appeared in the UIHC Emergency Treatment Center during this time period, the chart was reviewed to determine if the use of alcohol was present. If it was, university records were checked to determine if the person was a student. If so, the class schedule was examined for the presence of Friday classes. Professor Takacs' study indicated a drop in alcohol-related ETC visits for this age group of students from 2007-08 to 2008-09. During that same time period, there was an increase in the number of Friday classes overall at the university. He noted in summary that there were other alcohol-related initiatives in effect, such as the AlcoholEdu class, in addition to the increase in Friday classes during that time period. Professor Takacs plans to continue the study, drawing in data from 2009-10 and from Mercy Hospital. He then briefly discussed a prior study done at first aid stations by Professor House at Kinnick Stadium. Patients responded to questions about their alcohol use that day and whether they thought they could drive home following the game. Some of the intoxicated patients still believed they were capable of driving safely. In conclusion, Professor Takacs expressed concern for the safety of the many highly intoxicated students who return home rather than going to the emergency room to seek treatment.

President Drake stated that in 2007, when the university administration and the Faculty Senate had the opportunity to show support for the 21-only ordinance then being considered by the Iowa City Council, the Senate had remained silent. Since then, President Drake continued, harmful alcohol consumption in the downtown appears to have grown worse. He added that the Faculty Council had recently approved two resolutions regarding alcohol-related harm that would now be presented to the Senate.

Vice President Dove read a resolution calling for an increase in Friday classes “where feasible and appropriate.”

Professor Scott-Conner moved and Professor Justman seconded that the proposed resolution regarding an increase in Friday classes be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

President Drake prefaced the introduction to the second motion by urging the Senate to take a stand on the issue of the 21-only bar entrance ordinance under consideration by the Iowa City Council. These are our students, he stressed, and they are “drinking themselves to death.” He asserted that, the University administrators having already expressed support for the ordinance, the faculty voice must now be heard.

Professor Scott-Conner read a resolution calling for Senate endorsement of the 21-only bar entrance initiative being considered by the Iowa City Council.

Professor Scott-Conner moved and Professor Menninger seconded that the proposed resolution regarding an endorsement by the Faculty Senate of the 21-only bar entrance initiative currently under consideration by the Iowa City Council be adopted.

Professor Bohannon commented that there has been concern in the community about students increasingly engaging in house parties if their access to bars is cut off by the proposed ordinance. President Drake responded that the Iowa City Chief of Police, Sam Hargadine, in a change of stance from 2007, had recently stated that he now believed the police could control such parties. Also, President Drake continued, many individuals come to Iowa City from out of town as a drinking destination. Those individuals would not be attending house parties. He added that arguments had also been made for keeping the drinking confined to the downtown, near student residences, rather than creating a situation in which intoxicated students may be driving. However, Chief Hargadine has also stated his confidence that the police can control this situation (intoxicated persons on the road), as well. Professor Scott-Conner and President Drake both stressed that this ordinance will not entirely solve the problem of harmful alcohol consumption, but is a step in the right direction. Professor Williams commented that this is an opportunity for students to take control of changing the drinking culture. Given comments she had heard from her freshmen students about the availability of alcohol, she expressed doubt as to whether all bars self-police. She added that more restricted access to bars might take away some of the pressure on students to drink. Secretary Tachau commented that the large numbers of people gathering downtown can lead to potentially dangerous mob scenes, in which violence can escalate quickly. Therefore, police could find it easier to prevent violence when people are already dispersed into smaller groups at parties..

The motion carried unanimously.

- *Undergraduate Learning Outcomes (Rachel Williams, Council on Student Learning)*

Professor Williams explained that the Council on Student Learning (a faculty-staff committee charged with developing initiatives to support assessment of student learning) has been working for nearly two years to compile a draft list of undergraduate learning outcomes that would reflect what a University of Iowa education means. The Council members had reviewed the learning outcomes of each undergraduate major to arrive at a common set of outcomes that could be applicable to undergraduate students throughout the university. Students would benefit from having a clearly-defined list of outcomes from the total experience of their University of Iowa education. Professor Williams requested that senators review the draft list and provide input to the Council.

Professor Mangum commented that the listed outcomes reflected a solid liberal arts education. She also noted, however, that there is pressure on educational institutions to provide vocational skills and she asked how the Council viewed the intersection of those two objectives. Professor Williams answered that students often have clear career goals when they come to the university, but that the language of the outcomes is broad enough to encompass both objectives. Past President O'Hara asked how student success in achieving these outcomes would be measured. Professor Williams responded that the Council is still establishing the outcomes to be achieved and has not yet begun working on matters of assessment. Professor Kletzing asked how course content would be coordinated with the learning outcomes, particularly when the course of study does not always lend itself to clear coordination. Professor Williams answered that not every course or course of study could cover all of the outcomes; the intention is not only for the student's major and general education requirements, but indeed his/her entire university education, both inside and outside the classroom, to lead to achievement of the outcomes. Professor Morris followed up on Past President O'Hara's question about assessment. She questioned whether "ethical reasoning and action" and "responsibility for their lives and learning" could be assessed, as that would place faculty in the inappropriate position of judging character and behavior. She cautioned against the university moving back toward *in loco parentis*. Professor Williams acknowledged that this was a good point, but noted that there are many venues outside the classroom (service learning, Student Services-sponsored programs, etc.) for students to explore these issues. Secretary Tachau suggested that the item be re-phrased as "understanding the relationship between ethical reasoning and action." Professor Menninger commented that this list of outcomes was perhaps too ambitious, particularly the bullet points under #4, and that it was unrealistic to expect undergraduates to perform at this level. Professor Williams expressed her gratitude for the helpful advice to the Council.

IV. From the Floor – Vice President Dove stated that since 2006 the Faculty Engagement Corps has conducted annual trips throughout Iowa, giving faculty and administrators an opportunity to learn about the various regions of the state and speak with constituents of the university. This year's Corps trip will take place on Wednesday, May 19, and Thursday, May 20. Cities to be visited include Fort Madison, Burlington, and Columbus Junction, with stops at the Siemens Wind Energy Plant, Great River Medical Center, Southeastern Community College and Columbus Junction schools. About 20-25 faculty members are needed for the trip. Those interested should contact Vice President Dove.

President Drake asked the senators if they would like to have an additional meeting to discuss the reports of the Strategic Initiatives Task Forces. Professor Kurtz spoke in favor of an extra meeting, commenting that the task force reports were influential documents that need to be read and discussed by faculty. Professors Menninger and Kletzing agreed that the reports require serious consideration by a wide variety of people, as they are of sufficient impact on the university. Secretary Tachau commented that possibly contradictory findings of the reports need to be carefully examined. President Drake announced that senators would be contacted soon with the date of the extra meeting.

V. Announcements

- The annual Tenure Workshop, sponsored by the UI chapter of the AAUP, Faculty Senate, and the Office of the Provost, will be held on Wednesday, April 14, 6:30-9:00 pm, in the Galagan Auditorium of the Dental Science Building. Senators were urged to encourage junior colleagues to attend.
- The online Faculty Council election begins Friday, March 26, at 8 am. Senators were asked to encourage their colleagues to vote.
- The next Faculty Council meeting will be Tuesday, April 13, 3:30-5:15 pm, in the Seminar Room (2520D), University Capitol Centre.
- The next regularly-scheduled Faculty Senate meeting will be Tuesday, April 27, 3:30 – 5:15 pm in the Senate Chamber, Old Capitol.

VI. Adjournment – Past President O’Hara moved and Professor Kletzing seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was unanimously approved. President Drake adjourned the meeting at 4:40 pm.