

Kutztown University

## Research Commons at Kutztown University

---

Senate Minutes

Kutztown University Senate

---

Spring 4-5-2012

### **Senate Minutes 4-5-12**

Kutztown University of Pennsylvania

Follow this and additional works at: <https://research.library.kutztown.edu/senateminutes>

---

Kutztown University  
Kutztown, Pennsylvania

# UNIVERSITY SENATE MINUTES

<http://www.kutztown.edu/admin/usenate>

Thursday, April 5, 2012 - 4:00 p.m.

Academic Forum 102

**PRESENT:** A. Awadallah, G. Bamberger, N. Butler (sub. D. Aruscavage), J. Cevallos (sub. J. Silberman), E. Christian, J. C. Hamilton (Vice President), J. Delle, , P. Dewey, S. Fernando, J. Gehringer, H. Hamlet, E. Hanna (sub. M. Weller), J. Jackson (sub.), D. Johnson (President), R. Kaplan, Y. Kim (sub. S. Kim), A. Kirshman, J. Kremser, J. Laskoski (sub. N. Hawxhurst), M. Le Bosse, S. Lem, J. Lizza, K. Logan, S. Mangold (Secretary), T. Maskulka, K. McCloskey, C. Nordlund, S. Pham, P. Reed, C. Rutherford (sub.), C. Sacchi, J. Schlegel, M. Sims, R. L. Smith, C. Vargas, P. Walsh-Coates, A. Walz, C. Watson, C. Wells, G. Zelleke

**ABSENT:** A. Arnold, L. Barish, C. Bloh, R. Fliszar, M. Freed, K. Gardi, R. Grapsy, R. Gross, J. Heller, D. Immel, L. Irving, M. Mahosky

**GUESTS ATTENDING:** F. Cortez-Funk, L. Fahy, P. Keldsen, B. McCree, V. Reidout, D. Slack, N. Wunderly

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.
- II. **Announcements**
  - New senators begin their terms in the 2012 fall semester. Those who are here representing their department today can sign in as such next to the department representative's names.
  - Senators were asked to encourage their students to use KUnited.
- III. **Approval of the Agenda**
  - There were no objections to the agenda as presented. Agenda approved.
- IV. **Approval of the Minutes from March 1, 2012**
  - There was a small change that was made to the minutes of the March 1, 2012 meeting per Lisa Frye regarding the Academic Technology Committee. There were no objections to the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Minutes approved.
- V. **President, Committee and Task Force Reports**
  - A. **Senate President's Report – D. Johnson**
    - a. A few people have contacted Senate to raise concern about Grad Council, which was disbanded a few weeks ago. This is not a Senate committee, as it is not in the university governance structure. There are four committee positions represented by Graduate Council, such as those on Graduate Exceptions Committee. There is a mechanism through

our Constitution for forming committees; interested people can contact D. Johnson for assistance. J. Cohen Hamilton pointed out that there are Senate committees that deal with graduate issues, such as academic policies to the Academic Standards & Policies Committee. D. Johnson noted that all curricular matters go through the Curriculum Committee and do not fall under Senate at all.

- b. D. Johnson showed senators a website created by the Chronicle of Higher Education, <http://collegecompletion.chronicle.com>. It allows users to view information regarding retention rates for various ethnic groups among colleges and is easy to use. We will continue to have information presented regarding retention and completion, the Equity Scorecard, etc.

#### **B. Committee on Committees Report – J. Cohen Hamilton**

- a. The Vice President/COC report was presented. Elections of department, professional staff, and at-large senators are complete for next year. Special elections are held for three committees. There is a vacancy on the Grade Appeal Board for a College of Business tenured faculty. Senate will make an announcement at the beginning of next year for all vacancies, including these elected seats. There were 105 applicants through the Willingness-to-Serve process for 83 committee positions; appointees were announced. J. Cohen Hamilton expressed thanks again to Leah Cassellia for her assistance. She explained that the COC works to appoint as many different people to committees, noting, however, that seniority, size of college, and specifications of positions available factor into the appointment process. Notices of appointments will be sent to appointees after the April 23 COC meeting and forward to D. Johnson to be included in the email to Senators prior to the May meeting for Senate approval.
- b. J. Cohen-Hamilton has agreed to serve as co-chair for the Institutional Climate Committee. A report will be presented to Senate at the May meeting.
- c. Grade Appeal Board policy revisions will be moved forward to Academic Standards Committee for review and approval. It will then be returned to the COC and brought to Senate in May.

#### **C. Comments About the Budget—J. Silberman**

The Board of Governors reviewed budget updates. There haven't been many changes since the last update provided. State revenue collections were up by 2.4% in March, although they are still down year-to-date, which is why the state asked for a return of a portion of the appropriation. Healthcare renewal rates will increase by 5.6% for managers, faculty, and SCUPA. This will save Kutztown University approximately \$600,000. Enrollment across PASSHE is down for spring; Chancellor's office revised enrollment projections for next year; the budget deficit has been revised from 120 million to 125 million. Senators were invited to one of the two open forums hosted by the President on April 10 for questions.

#### **D. Admissions Director—Nancy Wunderly**

N. Wunderly, the new Admissions Director, was introduced to and welcomed by senators. She described her philosophy of enrollment management—it goes beyond admissions, from the

first inquiry through commencement. She indicated she is working with various offices on campus to share information about processes and numbers and invited senators to contact her to set up a meeting. She indicated we are in the midst of 'yield' right now, where numbers change daily and a number of things are in progress, including spring visitation days, off-campus receptions in Philadelphia and New Jersey. They are already looking forward to recruitment for the classes of 2013, 2014, and 2015. Sunday, May 6 is a new spring preview day for high school sophomores, juniors, and transfer students interested in spring 2013 and beyond. They are working on a communication plan to reach out and stay connected to prospective students. Deposits are up from last year. Applications are down across the state system; KU is working to move forward—we don't stop at May 1—recruitment continues through the summer. D. Johnson noted that recruitment and admissions requires a team effort, and encouraged Admissions to let faculty and staff know how they can help.

Questions for N. Wunderly included:

- What are the numbers for this year compared to similar dates last year? Deposits are up slightly from last year (1,100 vs. 1,000); accepts are down slightly from last year (6,200 vs. 6,500), as are applications (9,400 vs. 9,700).
- Has there been an increase in enrollments at community colleges? Only anecdotal evidence. The agreement with RACC is a wonderful opportunity because it will bring into KU better-prepared students.
- What is the most effective tool in recruiting potential students? Getting students on campus.
- Do we do surveys about the spring visitation experience? Yes; surveys ask how likely they are to attend KU so they can activate calling campaigns and outreach to those students; feedback is used to help mold the programs.
- How many total first-year completed applications? Not all applications are complete in terms of being able to make a decision. PeopleSoft will help to track that information in different stages of the process. Admissions reaches out to students as soon as they become aware of them as a potential student and stays connected with them through their years at KU.

D. Johnson suggested some departments may want to send volunteers to the recruitment fairs for transfer students to help in the process. N. Wunderly noted that everyone at the university plays a role in recruitment, in marketing, and in retention.

There are several scholarships and awards programs being implemented this year for new students, such as the KU Promise for stem (science, technology, engineering, and math) majors that fixes tuition for four years for selected students, as well as special outreach efforts to out-of-state students.

D. Johnson noted that Senator A. Kirshman heads the Connections staff and can speak to senators about the next step in the process. C. Vargas noted the importance of the faculty connection with students both inside and outside of the classroom and asked for suggestions about how to make that happen.

## **E. Athletics Report—Greg Bamberger**

Athletics moved from Student Services & Campus Life to the division of Advancement this year. Fall sports were successful, and the following were noted: football won its first conference championship in the history of the school; soccer and volleyball are in the playoffs; and volleyball coach John Gump earned his 500<sup>th</sup> win. For winter sports: basketball finished with a division championship; four wrestlers went to nationals, and indoor track had one of its finest seasons. Spring sports: softball and baseball are doing very well; softball coach Judy Lawes achieved her 750<sup>th</sup> victory; and both tennis programs are undefeated at this point in time. KU is currently in eighth place for the Dixon Cup, the Pennsylvania State Conference All-Sport Trophy, won by KU in the 2005-2006 season.

Student athletes contribute 2500-2700 community service hours every year, most recently with involvement with the Fools Run. Academically, 142 student athletes achieved dean's list status. One hundred KU athletes achieved PSAC student scholar status with a 3.25 or higher GPA. The women's swimming team was recognized by national coaches for having the fifth best GPA of all swimming teams in the country at their level, and the field hockey team was recognized for having the second best GPA of national teams at their level. Student athletes graduate at 6-year graduation rate of 72%. The faculty athletic representative is Tom Grant. Student athletes have to maintain a certain level GPA to participate in athletics; coaches and Michele Gober help to monitor and provide a built-in support system. Two measures are used to calculate retention. The Federal Graduation Rate measures rates for athletes on financial athletic aid but it is not accurate in that it counts against the program when students leave to attend other programs. Athletics has begun to use the Academic Success Rate (currently 68%) adjusts better for this, but is not a graduation rate. C. Watson expressed her appreciation and support of the academic component of the Athletics program and suggested that senators ask colleagues in their departments to consider accommodating student athletes when getting extra academic help conflicts with team responsibilities. A concern was raised about athletes who register for classes that are popular but held later in the afternoon and then miss classes and tests; G. Bamberger was not aware of this issue. A concern about a particular coach was raised; D. Johnson noted this needs to be addressed in a different forum and will follow-through. D. Johnson offered congratulations to Athletics for the athletic and academic success of its teams.

## **VI. Old Business**

### **A. Governance Structure Task Force Membership**

Members will be announced via email; they will meet and a report will be made at the May Senate meeting.

## **VII. New Business**

### **A. Committee Membership**

Four committees include a representative from Graduate Council, which no longer exists: Enrollment Management, Calendar, International Affairs, Strategic Planning & Resources. A motion was made by J. Cohen Hamilton, second by J. Delle, to change the wording on the

membership list from “Graduate Council Representative” to “Graduate Faculty” and to retain the faculty currently in positions. Discussion arose regarding what constitutes graduate faculty status. Currently, a list is generated by departments that nominate members for graduate faculty status. It was noted that there needs to be consistency in identifying graduate faculty, as some departments don’t have graduate programs but have faculty that teach in graduate programs. C. Wells noted people who are not on the list for graduate faculty have not been approved by their departments, as the policy requires departments to nominate faculty and then have them approved by the Graduate Dean. Motion passed unanimously.

**B. Honorary Degrees**

D. Johnson explained the process for granting honorary degrees. The Honorary Degree Committee makes recommendations to Senate executive board, who vote and forward the recommendations to the President. The President brings the recommendations to the Council of Trustees. The recipients are then announced to Senate. Two honorary degrees are granted each academic year; KU has been granted three this year, two in May and one in December. The morning recipient is a 1974 College of Education alumnus, Lieutenant General Richard C. Zilmer, who has also agreed to serve on the KU Foundation. A Communications Design graduate, Eric Schaeffer, will be awarded an honorary degree in the afternoon ceremony.

**VIII. As May Arise**

Nothing noted.

**IX. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by J. Schlegel, seconded by K. Logan. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.