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Senate Minutes

Kutztown University Senate

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Spring 3-6-2003

### **Senate Minutes 3-6-03**

Kutztown University of Pennsylvania

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Kutztown University of Pennsylvania  
Kutztown, Pennsylvania

**MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE**

March 06, 2003

R. Schaeffer called the meeting to order in Room 223 of the Student Union Building.

Present: Marilyn Baguion, William Bateman, Jorie Borden, Gary Brey, Emily Button, Dan Cates, Janice Chernenkoff, Richard Crooker, Miles DeCoster, Peggy Devlin, Pascale Dewey, Dennis Dietrich, Linda Goldberg, Bruce Gottschall, James Hall, Beth Herbine, Brad Johnson, Deryl Johnson, Diane Johnson, Patricia Kelleher, Kevin Kjos, Lisa Ladd-Kidder, Carol Mapes, Morris Perinchief, Dennis Rains, Patricia Richter, Charles Roth, Gail Rothenmel, Paul Sable, Randy Schaeffer, Neil Shea, Andrew Skitko, Judith Smith, Peg Speirs, Marie Squerciati, Theresa Stahler, William Towne, Raymond Tumbleson, John Vafeas, Ed Vivic, Dana Wilcox, Girma Zelleke

Absent: Deborah Barlieb, Joan Davis, Michael Gambone, Roger Hibbs, Joseph Lippincott, Suzanne Prestoy, Bob Watrous, Clark Yeager.

Also in attendance: Deborah Lynch, Edward Simpson, Ritta Basu and Philip Breeze.

I. Announcements

R. Schaeffer introduced the guests who were present and the three new student representatives to Senate. The guests were Deb Lynch, Chair of Gen Ed Committee; Ed Simpson, Chair of Strategic Planning & Resources Committee; Phil Breeze and Ritta Basu from Public Relations; and the student reps were Emily Button, Ed Vivic, Dana Wilcox.

G. Brey reported that the information from the Registrar that came with the calendar which stated the beginning and end date were set across the 14 universities is incorrect. At the February 14 APSCUF meeting, the Chancellor and Michael Becker informed APSCUF that this is not the case. The only thing set is Spring Break.

G. Brey reported that according to Michael Becker there is no Rule of 12. This seems to be in direct conflict with the Board of Governors rule.

G. Brey reported that the Chancellor met with Bill Fulmer and the Chancellor's interpretation is 120 credits for graduation to be a minimum.

P. Breeze and R. Basu from the Public Relations Office gave a presentation on "Working with the Media." They offered tips and suggestions. Please feel free to contact the PR office with any questions and at any time.

The 2003-2004 calendar was presented. The term "Pacing Break" was questioned. The last day of the semester will fall on commencement day. The calendar has not been finalized.

II. Approval of the Agenda

M. DeCoster moved, P. Dewey seconded, to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

III. Approval of the Minutes of February 6, 2003.

De. Johnson moved, M. DeCoster seconded, to approve the minutes of February 6, 2003.

L. Ladd-Kidder asked for a clarification of the discussion relative to the report from the Enrollment Management Committee and Senate endorsement of that report. R. Schaeffer and L. Goldberg responded to the question. The Senate serves in an advisory capacity to that committee. As there were no changes or corrections to the minutes, the motion was passed.

IV. Committee and Task Force Reports

A. Committee on Committees

M. Perinchief announced that appointments were made to the General Education Committee with D. Lynch as the chair.

B. Gen Ed

D. Lynch addressed the Senate. The proper name of the committee is the General Education Restructuring Committee. The committee will be meeting weekly and anticipate completion by September. Discussion followed. R. Schaeffer invited D. Lynch to attend all Senate meetings to report from that committee.

C. Strategic Planning and Resources Committee

E. Simpson reported that the fourth question has been distributed. A web site will be available shortly at [www.kutztown.edu/committees/SPRC](http://www.kutztown.edu/committees/SPRC).

V. Old Business

R. Schaeffer reported on the status of the IUP resolution. Millersville endorsed it. Mansfield said the 120 credits for graduation and the common calendar issues should be reconsidered and reversed. KU student government declared the resolution to be without merit.

VI. Plus-Minus Grading Proposal

R. Schaeffer complimented the History department for their work on the proposal.

A motion to consider the proposal was made by B. Herbine, seconded by M. Perinchief. Motion carried.

A poll with comments and discussion followed:

- Modern Languages – unanimously endorsed with at least two years to consider
- Math & Computer Sci – 9-6 in favor
- Communication Design – unanimous support
- Psychology – supports in principle
- Fine Arts – 10 in favor-1 not in favor -1 abstain
- Criminal Justice & Social Work – requires more discussion; consider another system of 0-4 number/decimal point (exmp: 3.5 or 3.7)
- Political Science – unanimous support but look at shared system and how it will work with the grading (It was reported that G. Paterno said no problem.) (L. Ladd-Kidder questioned how could it be said there will not be a problem when the shared system doesn't exist yet.)
- Speech Comm & Theatre – 13-1 in favor of looking at it; wants sufficient time to discuss proposal before voting on it.
- Elementary Ed – all in support but one
- Secondary Ed – unanimous support

- Art Education & Crafts – all in support but one; supports exploration of the +/- system or other models that allow for more nuance in grading; consider looking at plus only grading system.
- Biology – unanimous support
- English - supports
- Physical Science – in favor
- Economics – majority opposed
- Geography – 1 in favor-6 opposed
- Accounting/Finance – in favor with caveat: 1) This could be a detriment to students if no A+. 2) A larger issue of grade inflation exists in current situation.
- Student Government Board – held informal vote with 21 students; 8 thought it would be helpful, 13 thought it would hurt. Have a lot of questions. How will it impact the QPA and grades? Students work hard to get an A. Afraid it will put a focus on the minus. Request someone to attend an SGB meeting to explain the proposal.

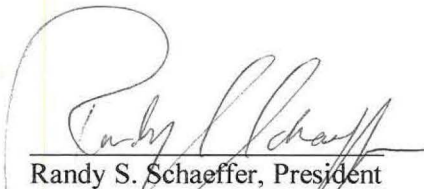
An open discussion followed.

Previous history of proposal: Senate vote was a tie. Senate president broke tie with a yes. Referendum was 135 to 130 in favor. University President McFarland did not proceed with it since there was not a clear mandate.

A motion was made by B. Herbine, seconded by De. Johnson, to follow the Proposal Recommendation 3 b: The University Senate requests that the Academic Standards and Policy Committee explore the feasibility and advisability of adopting such a system and report back with a recommendation in a timely manner. Motion carried.

VII. M. DeCoster moved, P. Dewey seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.



Randy S. Schaeffer, President



Peg Speirs, Secretary