

Senators Present

Paula Adams, Roger Brown, Radhouane Chouchane, Tammy Condrey, Pat Duttera, Angela Green, Pat Hogan, Brenda May Ito, Ellen Martin, Joe McCallus, Mike McFalls, Gisung Moon, Jim Owen, Jackie Radebaugh, Brian Schwartz, Melody Shumaker, Glenn Stokes, Paul Vaillancourt, Troy Vidal, Jeff Zuiderveen

Guests Attending Included

Julie Ballenger, Caleb Bolden, Will Brooks, Barbara Buckner, Tina Butcher, Greg Domin, Tom Hackett, Tom Helton, Susan Hrach, Barbara Hunt, David Lanoue, Diana Lofton, Bert Lyman, Michael Mangum, Neal McCrillis, John McElveen, Kimberly McElveen, Clay Nicks, Antonio Orsborn, Chip Reese, Dan Ross, Iris Saltiel, Jay Sparks, Neal Thomson, Tara Underwood, Dan Van Kley,

Call to order at 3:02

Faculty Senate Minutes Format

Executive Officer Stokes: Robert's Rules state that meeting minutes should record (<http://www.robertsrules.org/ror-10.htm#60>):

All the main motions (except such as were withdrawn) and points of order and appeals, whether sustained or lost, and all other motions that were not lost or withdrawn.

A number of years ago, the Senate opted for a much more thorough set of minutes. These types of minutes take the secretary position out of the discussion because she/he must record every word spoken during the meetings. We want to make a recommendation to have permission to record the meetings via video or audio and then record minutes according to that specified in Robert's Rules.

Do I hear a motion?

Motion

Second

Is there any discussion?

Question: What are the drawbacks?

Executive Officer Stokes: You say something really embarrassing and it is recorded. The record would be permanent.

Comment: Another drawback of the present state of the minutes is that they are difficult to review thoroughly to ensure accuracy.

Comment: One downside to audio recording the proceedings is that the non-tenured faculty members may worry that what they say will detrimentally affect them.

Question: If we have an audio recording, how do we know who will be talking?

Comment: This is how traditional minutes are recorded. They are very impersonal.

Question: Can we do both audio recordings and detailed minutes?

Comment: Doing both would be extremely time-consuming for the secretary.

Vote on the motion: 19-1 in favor of the motion.

Student Fees Task Force Recommendation

Senator Zuiderveen: The members of the task force are:

Jeff Zuiderveen, Jim Owen, Brian Schwartz, Troy Vidal, Barbara Hunt, Iris Saltiel, Antonio Orsborne and John McElveen.

There was a follow-up meeting on Friday to talk about numbers and concerns. We are going to present what the committee has planned on, but there are other pieces that need to be integrated.

To take you back to why this was brought up. I was noticing that we are starting to miss a group of people who want to come here. I first noticed it with my son. He's a history major and was signed up to take an internship over the summer. When he saw how much he had to pay in fees and tuition, he made arrangements to do the internship, but without class credit. Four out of the five students doing the same internship ended up not taking it for course credit. In addition, a guy from my church is two years from completing a business degree. He wants to go part-time and he approached me to tell me about the fees and he is looking at other places to go because of them. In the biology department, a student went to look at what it is going to cost him and he started to wonder after he added the fees and the tuition for summer, if it is more advantageous for him to drive to Georgia Southwestern, even with the cost of gas. Are the fees causing people not to study here? I talked to several people about this and it bounced around and did not seem to move anywhere.

The Pell Grant is no longer available in the summer. John McElveen also says that there are problems with the availability of summer loans. I was told that the athletic department is not going to offer summer athletic scholarships.

Antonio Orsborne, the SGA president, brought up during the April 2nd meeting that this concern is also one felt by student government.

PowerPoint Presentation: Fee Structure Analysis – Presented by Brian Schwartz

Senator Schwartz: What I tried to show you in this presentation is the problem that we are dealing with.

Senator Zuiderveen: There is no set plan that universities use to deal with fees. I looked at a lot of things and found that the institutional fee stayed the same. Many institutions maintain fees like the technology, access and international fees regardless of hours. The largest complaints from students taking one class in the summer are about the recreation center, health fee, athletic fee and parking deck fee.

Motion before the Faculty Senate concerning student fees

Whereas the current fee structure does not make us competitive with the other USG institutions closest to us geographically (as well as in general) and with Columbus Technical Institute, which offers the core courses for considerably less;

and, whereas, the Pell Grant will no longer help students take classes in the summer if they have been full time during the previous fall and spring semesters, summer school loans could be difficult to get and athletic scholarships for summer have been discontinued;

and, whereas, for many students taking more than one or two classes in the summer is a) more than some may prefer, and b) not good for them academically (thus threatening our RPG rates);

we of the Faculty Senate are concerned that enrollments this summer and future summers will be impacted dramatically.

These factors could lead to:

- a) a decrease in the number of students taking classes, which will cause
- b) a number of classes with insufficient numbers to be cancelled, which will cause
 - 1) additional students to lose classes as these classes are cancelled, and
 - 2) faculty to lose a chance to make money during the summer through teaching at CSU.

This could lead to:

- c) a decrease in summer revenue for the University in general, as well as for colleges, departments, and individual faculty, which could lead to
- d) a loss of faculty trying to teach in the summer, a loss of money for expendables and travel, and possibly loss of faculty lines that are paid for by summer proceeds.

We therefore propose that the fee structure be altered to make us more competitive. We feel that this will not only keep students in school who wouldn't take summer classes because of the cost, but would also reduce attrition for summer classes to CTI and other institutions, as well as providing additional income from students coming home to Columbus during the summer who only want to take one or two classes. We do not feel that this will impact very many of the students already planning to attend who wish to take larger loads, but will instead open the door for an untapped student market.

Therefore, we propose the following changes:

Students taking 4 hours or less will not pay the following fees: activity, athletic, health, parking deck, and recreation center. These fees will phase back in at 5-8 hours, with 5 hours paying 60%, 6 hours paying 70%, 7 hours paying 80% and 8 hours paying 90%. Students taking 9 or more hours would pay full fees. (Ideally, we would like to see this implemented for all terms, not just summer.)

This will encourage students to take a class or two during the summer, which will help students to graduate more quickly. This could also benefit public relations if we publicize the fact that CSU is helping to reduce the cost of education by reducing mandatory fees for part-time students.

The committee also suggests that some funds received as the Institutional Fee be redistributed to Student Affairs to lessen the impact of losses due to reduced mandatory fees.

Using the current fee and tuition structure, I calculated that if 800 students took classes last summer with only 4 hours or less of classes, they would have paid \$1,172,960 (@\$1466.20 each and that assumes they all took the full four hours). To determine how many additional students we would need to make up the financial difference, I used the proposed cost of \$999.20 for students taking 4 hours and divided that into the amount and rounded. I determined that we would need 1174 students in order to get \$1,173,061. Thus, we would need an additional 374 students to balance out the dollar amounts (even if the administration can't figure out how to give that to the folks losing out due to fees being cut).

Question: Have we looked at previous enrollments to see if the summer enrollments have gone down?

Comment: Over the last few years, it has leveled off, I think.

Tom Helton: We stayed up around 28,000 credit hours. There is no evidence that there has been a decline.

Senator Schwartz: We are saying that there may be a decline. And we may be missing out on growth that we could have. Numbers may be matched by number of freshmen coming in and therefore there is probably a decline in commuter hours.

Comment: A number of students have talked about taking required classes during the summer time because they are not being offered any other time. I wanted to join this group because I am leading the Complete Georgia initiative and one part of it is to attract adult learners and the military. We will not be able to compete with our fees being so high.

Senator Schwartz: Under the new plan, we are not down to the level of Columbus Tech, but there are quality issues and services that we offer over Columbus Tech.

Executive Officer Stokes: Do I have a second to the motion presented by the task force?

Second

Discussion

Question: You are saying that we need to increase the number of students taking 4 hours by 40%, but what will happen if these fees are not being paid? Have we considered knocking the students taking more than 3 hours out who want to pay fewer fees?

Senator Schwartz: There should not be economic pressures about how many classes students take. There should only be academic factors.

Question: If the students do not pay for services, such as health, do they no longer take advantage of such services?

Tom Helton: No. The students will continue to get the services.

Handout: VPBF Presentation

Tom Helton: We have been cut probably 35% from state appropriations over the last few years. They are shifting the burden from the taxpayers to the students.

The fees have been approved by a student committee. For example, the parking deck was approved by students. The fees go to the 30-year bond. This is called a public private partnership. The recreation center was approved by students too. They all have been approved, but they become painful over time.

We cannot take from one fee and give it to another auxiliary fee.

From a market perspective, between 0-3 hours in the summer, we are higher than anyone else. But if we implement the recommendation, the impact would be a loss of \$200,000.

Columbus has not grown in population, but we have changed in population. We are working hard to maintain our local market. Our growth and future growth involves becoming a regional university. Our growth is not tied locally. I also believe that you are talking about a value proposition and where it puts us. Do not confuse cost with value. We have a valuable product that is competitive. From 0-3 credit hours, we are not competitive, however.

Handout: Activity Fee Committee Presentation

Darryl Holloman: The proposed recommendation would have an impact on Student Life and would equate in people having to go home if we do this. Will these students be served? Yes. This puts the burden on students who do pay fees. But will we be able to improve our services, such as the ability to write prescriptions? The counseling center would be impacted too by not being able to provide services to the RiverPark campus.

Columbus Tech is cheaper than we are. We provide more services, such a health center, a counseling center, etc. This is why our fees are more.

The recreation center provides a lot of student jobs that would be lost if we lose the fees.

With the mandatory fees, some academic programming, such as academic travel and student performances may be also lost.

At the end of the day, even if this 3-hour fee reduction goes through, we are prepared to absorb that, but anymore than this would be detrimental to us and I will be looking at staff positions to cut.

Question: Is there a plan in place if enrollment goes down?

Darryl Holloman: Our enrollment going down has not been a result of fees. It is related to an increase in academic standards.

Comment: We are dealing with Columbus Tech since courses transfer to CSU perfectly. You are focused on what you may lose. I am asking if you have a plan in place if students stop coming because of the fees.

Tom Helton: Retention should help with our enrollment.

Question: How much have we lost in the last 4 years from the state?

Tom Helton: The total is close to 35%. If we had not grown in enrollment and received revenue from online and course fees, it would have been terrible. The staff side suffered. We are in a fragile financial condition right now. It is a better bargain if you go full-time. But we need to be sensitive to the market place. I am torn there.

Question: If student affair contracts are offered for 10 months, can you reduce expenditures this way?

Darryl Holloman: Most of our work is 12-month work. But if people move to part-time, it results in people losing benefits. We have orientations and visitations all summer long.

Question: Can we do a compromise? Can students taking 4 hours or less just pay a percentage of the fees?

Comment: The biggest thing that the students are complaining about is that there are classes not being offered in the fall and spring so you have to go in the summer and pay high fees. The changes with the Pell Grant have also affected this.

Comment: I wanted to respond to Senator Martin. 50% would move us in the right direction, but not very far.

Question: If we eliminate the fees, where would the bond money come from?

Tom Helton: The fees will have to increase, but we cannot tell the banks that we will not pay the bonds.

Comment: The rationale in cutting the fees is that summer is half as much as the normal term and therefore, the services are not used as much.

Question for Tom Helton: You started to say that there is something wrong with the fee structure. What do you want?

Tom Helton: From 0-3 hours we are higher than our peers. I believe that institutionally, we can figure this out. But we are not sure of our tuition increase or how many people will turn up in the fall. The best thing to do is to try something small and then tweak it. People have already paid for summer and if we make a change, we need to figure it out. We need to make a call and then try to tweak what we decide to do.

Comment: We are very conscious of students having to pay high fees.

Comment: I want to respond to the student's comment about a course you need to take that is only offered in Maymester. It is our understanding that when it comes to academic schedules, summer is optional. The students are not required to go. My point is that we are told that summer is optional so you need to speak with your dean and department chair about this problem.

Comment: One of the things that concerns me is that some of these assumptions are being made in the dark. The assumptions are possible, but if we miss the mark, we will end up in crisis situations. We need to work with the faculty and relevant administrators. We need to think and work this out by studying the problem.

Comment: We are talking about one factor that influences student enrollment. There are other factors, such as the need for students who come home to Columbus to work because of the economy.

Comment: We are speaking like our classes are price elastic. But I am seeing that our demand is not very price elastic. Lowering the fees may not have such an impact.

Comment: Demand and supply is important, but fundamentally, the system is unfair. Making a gradual change may be a good choice. Prorating is perfectly rational, but if this is not possible, we should make some gradual changes.

Comment: This is too important to not have an economic model in place to make these changes. I am sensitive to the students' needs. The tuition has been passed from the taxpayers to the students.

Comment: We are in a new league and should not be compared any longer to Georgia Southwestern. I want to be compared to Georgia Southern.

Comment: I agree. We need to go slow with this. I need to balance student needs with the employment needs of faculty in the summer. I am concerned about faculty. We could have to reduce summer pay for faculty and the revenue structure that funds professional development.

Comment: Thanks to the committee. You did a great job and making this apparent to us. My problem is making a decision too quickly. A group of people can get together to try to make reductions for these students, such as prorating. We need to be careful when we do this.

Executive Officer Stokes: There is a motion and there are several alternatives.

Comment: I hesitate to make a recommendation, but I need to make an observation. This discussion is a huge referendum for shared governance. Whatever comes out of this, it comes from shared governance. There is not a lot of wriggle room in the budget. Whatever we do with fees, we have to pay our bills. When push comes to shove, you have to pay the bonds.

Senator Zuiderveen: I do not mind waiting on this, but I just must say that I am very disappointed. I talked to many folks in the administration starting last fall. We put this together in two weeks. What could have been done had folks started working on this when I first mentioned it? It is a sad fact, but it was not until we put this on the table that people began to take notice.

Question: We need to come up with a timetable. It does not need to drop off of the radar.

Comment: Our students had to get involved to get this on the table.

Vote: 0-19 against the motion as recommended

Executive Officer Stokes: Is there a follow up motion?

Comment: We need a committee or task force with a deadline that represents all of the stakeholders.

Question: How much lead time do you need?

Tom Helton: By Christmas, we could make adjustments for next summer.

Question: Can we table the committee membership and timeline decisions until the next Faculty Senate meeting?

Executive Officer Stokes: Please remember to send your ideas about the timeline and membership to the task force.

Meeting adjourned: 5:05