

Chair Mortazavi called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm on Tuesday, April 13, 2010, Nelson Hall East, Room 102 (Goodwin Forum). A quorum was present.

Members present: Berman, Bolick-Floss, Cannon, Chapin, Ellerd, Flashman, Fulgham, Goodman, Heise, Meiggs, Mortazavi, Moyer, Nordstrom, Olson, Paynton, Reiss, Richmond, Rodriguez, Snyder, Thobaben, Tripp, Van Duzer, VerLinden, Yarnall.

Members absent: Altschul, Butler, Faulk, Gunsalus, Knox, Margell, Powell, Rizzardi, Ryerson-Repogle.

Proxies: Moyer for Cheyne, Reiss for Craig, Reiss for Mola.

Guests: MacConnie, Burges, S. Smith, Mullery, Hurlbut.

Time was given to senators to review the minutes of the April 6 meeting which were distributed at the meeting.

### **1. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of March 23, 2010**

M/S/U (VerLinden/Heise) to approve the minutes from the meeting of March 23, 2010 as written.

### **2. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of April 6, 2010**

M/S/P (Van Duzer/Heise) to approve the minutes from the meeting of April 6, 2010 as written.

Discussion:

A correction was noted on page 2. Clarification was requested regarding statements on page 9. It was agreed a clarification would be added to the minutes that the terminology "elimination" and "suspension" have been used simultaneously; but that it had been agreed by the Senate that it was recommending "suspending" programs versus "eliminating" them.

Voting on the minutes as corrected occurred and **PASSED** with 1 No vote and 3 Abstentions.

### **3. Reports, Announcements, and Communications of the Chair**

Proxies were announced.

Chair Mortazavi participated in the quarterly meeting of campus senate chairs last Thursday (via videoconference) and reported that the entire morning session was devoted to discussion of the HSU Senate's recommendation to eliminating the Nursing program.

#### **4. Reports of Standing Committees, Statewide Senators, and Ex-officio Members**

Academic Policies Committee (Van Duzer): The Committee is working on a Service Learning Policy.

Faculty Affairs Committee (Goodman): The Committee received an informal charge which it hopes will be made formal at the next Senate Executive Committee meeting. The charge is to develop a model for a university senate. It is reviewing the San Diego State model which was suggested by the Cabinet for Institutional Change.

It was asked if any consideration had been given to alternative models, for example, a purely academic senate which would deal only with academic issues, retention, tenure, promotion issues, etc. As far as senator Goodman knows, this is not being considered.

Integrated Curriculum Committee (ICC) (Moyer): The Committee discussed draft guidelines from the Master Planning Committee on 'minor' degrees. The document was sent back to the committee for more revisions.

Associated Students (AS) (Chapin): AS passed a resolution in support of alternative textbooks in the classroom. Elections will be held next week; a voter's guide was passed around the room. There are five students running for AS President. Three candidate forums have been scheduled. In addition to electing governance positions, there will be five questions on the ballot: one on the CAPS proposal, one regarding IRA fees, one on the proposed new university-wide facilities fee, and two questions on current smoking regulations on campus. Senators were asked to encourage students to vote.

Cabinet for Institutional (CIC) Change Steering Committee (Paynton): The Steering Committee is charged with monitoring the implementation of the changes recommended by the CIC. It has met twice and will continue working through the rest of the semester.

Administrative Affairs (Nordstrom): The off-campus activities audit has been completed; the campus has two months to respond to the findings. A financial aid audit is underway; this is a regularly scheduled audit. There will be a sponsored programs foundation audit on post-award processes scheduled soon (again, another regularly scheduled audit).

Academic Affairs (Snyder): The Provost met with the Nursing Department on Friday and has also met with a number of community health groups and with state legislators, including Daryl Steinberg, President pro tem of the California Senate and members from the statewide nursing board.

President's Office (Richmond): The President attended a meeting of the Technology Steering Committee at the Chancellor's Office (CO) and reported on a video presentation by Richard Katz (EDUCAUSE) on the impact of technology on universities. If time permits, he would like to share the 15-minute video with the Senate.

The President announced that Kristin Johnson, Regional Director of the Small Business Development

Center (SBDC) is now the leader of all of the SBDC's in the state of California. The SBDC's have an office in Sacramento within the Office of Economic Development.

The President thanked the individuals who spoke with Josh Keller, the West Coast reporter for the Chronicle of Higher Education, when he was visiting campus. Keller was impressed by what he observed at HSU.

The President was asked for an update on the current status of the search for a Vice President of Student Affairs. A national search will be done.

**5. TIME CERTAIN: 4:15-4:30 – Open forum for the campus community**

There were no speakers for the forum.

**6. Presentation of Proposed Rationale for Program Elimination Recommendation from the Senate Executive Committee**

Draft arguments (from the Senate Executive Committee) for the recommendations to suspend Nursing, Computer Information Systems and the MA in Film Production and the MFA in Scenography were reviewed and discussed.

Discussion:

- Reasons both for and against suspending Nursing should be included. It is irresponsible not to acknowledge the reasons that were expressed against the recommendation to suspend Nursing. The following four reasons 'against' should be added:
  1. There is a national and local nursing shortage
  2. There is a shortage of faculty (i.e., a need to education more BS nurses to have a pool of nurses qualified to seek advanced degrees)
  3. There is strong local community support (medical, nursing, and legislative) to keep the Nursing program
  4. There is California legislative financial support to increase the number of baccalaureate degree nurses.
- Everyone's voice should be heard – the reasons 'against' suspending Nursing should be added.
- The vote was to suspend the program – the rationale should support the reasons the Senate voted to suspend. The Nursing program can address the reasons 'against' – they don't need to be included here.

- The Senate was asked what the purpose of the set of arguments/rationale is. Is it an effort to reconstruct the thinking of the Senate prior to its vote last Tuesday, i.e., is it an historical enterprise? Or is it an endeavor to find reasons to support the action taken by the Senate last week? How is the Senate looking at this?
- These are the reasons that were expressed on the floor of the Senate and in the Senate's discussion – it is an historical record.
- The Senate does not need to submit a rationale. It would be like the President of the U.S. asking Congress for a rationale. It is an exercise in frustration to figure out what was in the minds of senators when they voted.
- What difference does it make if the reasons are historical or otherwise?
- Shared governance should be a dialogue and an informed discussion based on reasons. If the arguments are simply a re-creation of statements already made (historical) then it appears the Senate is not necessarily looking for a good argument to eliminate nursing.
- Of the draft arguments presented, #6 is the most salient, with a number of factors that are important to the conditions of the Nursing program at HSU. In addition, #8 is a strong statement, because of the clinical requirements for the BSN. An additional statement on the performance expectations of the program, if retained, should be added.
- The rationale should be written as a basis for dialogue rather than a recording of the history of the discussion.
- Of the eight reasons presented, six are ones that are remembered as being stated at the meeting last week.
- Are all of the statements factual? If so, they are a robust set of reasons for why the Senate voted the way it did.

M/S/P (Goodman/Paynton) that the Academic Senate adopts the eight premises, as presented, on the recommendation to suspend the Nursing program.

Discussion:

- It was suggested that #3, "The elimination of Nursing will alleviate the need to eliminate a large number of less costly programs" be changed and the word 'large' be deleted. It was accepted as a friendly amendment.
- The term "eliminate" should be changed to "suspend" throughout. This was accepted as a friendly amendment.

M/S/F (Thobaben/Yarnall) to amend the motion on the floor and add the previously stated reasons 'against' the suspension of the Nursing program to the rationale:

1. There is a national and local nursing shortage
2. There is a shortage of faculty (i.e., a need to education more BS nurses to have a pool of nurses qualified to seek advanced degrees)
3. There is strong local community support (medical, nursing, and legislative) to keep the Nursing program
4. There is California legislative financial support to increase the number of baccalaureate degree nurses.

Discussion of the amendment:

- The amendment is too narrow in what it would add to the list and the reasons are focused outside of the university. Reasons against suspending the program from within the university should be enumerated elsewhere.
- The amendment is not supported; arguments for and against should be separate.
- Is the Senate arguing for or against? This will muddy its recommendation; what is forwarded to the Provost would not be clear. The recommendation on the graduate programs in Theatre Arts is a different situation because of the close vote and the fact that it might have been tied if Senator Cheyne had not recused herself.

Voting on the amendment occurred and **FAILED** with 1 Abstention.

Discussion returned to the original motion.

M (Fulgham) to add a ninth reason stating what performance expectations and timeline would be placed on the program if it is retained. Motion died for lack of a second.

- It has been commented that a quality dialogue should take place. It is hard to ask that from a body of individuals that have such diverse opinions. It would be good to make sure that all statements included in the list are true. The Provost was asked if he could identify that appear not to be true.
- Statement #5 was changed by friendly amendment: the word "Much" was replaced with "Some" at the beginning of the sentence.
- Statement #7 was changed by friendly amendment: the word "all" was inserted before "five groups."
- The floor was yielded to Dean Hurlbut who stated that it is clear from the community response that the loss of the Nursing program is a real loss to the community, especially in terms of the leadership positions in nursing that BSN nurses are able to fill.
- People are in defense mode and a lot of different information is being heard. The Senate needs to get back to discussing its recommendation on Nursing.

- It was suggested that the Senate recess and have a dialogue about the list of arguments, rather than making motions and amendments.
- It is good for a person to know what they want to say before they enter a conversation. Looking to the Provost for guidance is not a good way to begin a “fierce” conversation. The Senate should be coming up with its own reasons for why nursing should be suspended.
- The Provost stated that he will take the list of reasons and respond formally to each statement. The Senate needs to be clear on what its arguments are.

It was moved (Van Duzer) that the Senate recess for ten minutes to discuss its arguments for suspending the Nursing program. No minutes were taken during the recess.

The Senate returned to formal session.

- It would behoove the Senate to present the rebuttals to arguments against suspending Nursing, rather than arguments for keeping it.

Voting on the motion adopt the eight arguments, as presented (with friendly amendments), on the recommendation to suspend the Nursing program occurred and **PASSED** with 14 Yes votes, 2 No votes, and 4 Abstentions. The approved document reads:

**Argument Re: Nursing\***

1. The suspension of the program in Nursing (henceforth Nursing) will provide a great majority of the savings required.
2. Nursing is costly overall, and especially so relative to FTES generated by the program, which cannot improve due to the requirements of clinical supervision.
3. The suspension of Nursing will alleviate the need to suspend a number of less costly programs.
4. The suspension of Nursing will impact fewer HSU students overall than suspending a large number of less costly programs.
5. Some of the important service provided by Nursing, in terms of graduating students who will take jobs on the North Coast, can be met by the Nursing program at College of the Redwoods.
6. The ongoing struggles in recruiting and retaining quality faculty, and in filling the position of Department Chair, continue to present formidable challenges, none of which were adequately spoken to by the Nursing spokespersons.
7. At the Senate meeting on Saturday, 3 April 2010, all five groups, made up of faculty, students, administrators and staff, each identified Nursing to be recommended for suspension.
8. If Nursing is not suspended, then it will need to be funded at a level that is adequate for its needs, which means that if it is not suspended, its cost will be much greater than at present (hiring the needed tenure-track faculty alone would increase its cost a great deal).

*Therefore, the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University recommends to the Provost the suspension of the Nursing program.*

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*\*The sentences numbered 1-8 are intended to provide the evidence (the reasons) why Senators voted in favor of recommending the suspension of the program in Nursing, stated in the conclusion of the argument.*

M/S/P (Goodman/Cannon) that the Senate forwards the five premises and conclusion, as written, with the recommendation to suspend the Computer Information Systems (CIS) program, to the Provost.

- All references to “elimination” will be changed to “suspension.”
- Is it known if statements #1 and #2 are correct? CIS is ranked as 38 in terms of number of degrees awards annually and compared to Computer Science (CS) it has more majors.
- CIS is more expensive per student than CS; the savings would be fairly large (larger than CS).
- It was noted that in the cost savings data, there was no distinction between CS and CIS – the costs reflected were department costs.

Voting on the motion occurred and **PASSED** with 2 Abstentions. The approved document reads:

**Argument Re: Computer Information Systems\***

1. Computer Information Systems (CIS) contains few majors.
2. CIS graduates very few majors each year.
3. A significant savings is garnered with the suspension of CIS.
4. The two page rebuttal from CIS failed to defend itself but rather argued for restructuring or merging with another department.
5. The desirable functions presently fulfilled by CIS could be incorporated into the Computer Science program.

*Therefore, the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University recommends to the Provost the suspension of the program in Computer Information Systems.*

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*\*The sentences numbered 1-5 are intended to provide the evidence (the reasons) why Senators voted in favor of recommending the suspension of the program in Computer Information Systems, stated in the conclusion of the argument.*

Discussion on the arguments regarding the graduate programs in Theatre Arts:

- The reasons for suspending the MA in Film Production and the MFA in Scenography are intuitive. Any department that has multiple graduate programs should be considered as they are very costly. Keeping the MA in Theatre Production would allow the existing synergies between the graduate and undergraduate programs to continue. This is a proactive measure by the Senate to prevent significant costs in the future.
- The department’s rebuttal document to the Senate indicates that the Film Production program has not been functioning for the past 5-6 years and it currently has no students enrolled. The MFA in Scenography is an issue of sustainability of a relatively new program with only seven students enrolled. The two graduate degrees should be argued separately. Three different things are lumped together here.

- The Forestry and Wildland Soils Department has three graduate options and is working with the ICC to combine those into one in order to have a more efficient program. Theatre, Film and Dance has not done this yet.

It was noted that the sentence recommending suspension of the programs was inadvertently left at the bottom of the page – it will be moved up to follow immediately the ‘reasons for’ arguments.

M/S/P (Goodman/Fulgham) that the Senate forwards the reasons ‘for’ and ‘against’ the suspension of the two Theatre Arts graduate programs, as written, to the Provost. Voting occurred and **PASSED** with 2 Abstentions. The document reads:

**Argument Re: MA in Film Production and the MFA in Scenography**

Reasons for:\*

1. However the cost is measured, having three graduate degrees in the Department of Theatre, Film, and Dance is inherently costly.
2. Suspending the graduate degree in Film is a proactive measure to control cost in the future.
3. The MFA program requires a minimum of 78 units of coursework. Suspending the MFA could result significant savings.
4. Suspending the MA in Film and the MFA leaves the department with the MA in Theatre Production. As a result, the undergraduate program in theatre still could benefit from synergies that the graduate program provides.

*Therefore, the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University recommends to the Provost the suspension of the MA in Film Production and the MFA in Scenography.*

*\*The sentences numbered 1-4 are intended to provide the evidence (the reasons) why Senators voted in favor of recommending the suspension of the MA in Film Production and the MFA in Scenography, stated in the conclusion of the argument.*

Reasons against:\*\*

1. The suspension of the MA Film program would yield no savings whatsoever. It has not been active since 2004 and currently has no students and no courses associated with it. If the department were to submit a proposal for a revised MA in Film, it would be carefully scrutinized by a number of individuals and committees, including the Academic Senate, who would determine its viability in terms of curriculum and cost.
2. The suspension of the MFA Scenography would yield no savings UNLESS resources were diverted from the program that would be important to the ongoing health and stability of the undergraduate program. The resources required to create the MFA (and the MA) programs in theatre came from within the department, not through outside augmentation, and involved conversion of staff positions to create the GA positions, and assumption by MFA graduate students of design responsibilities allowing design faculty to teach additional courses rather than do as much design work. Departments should not be penalized for applying ingenuity and creativity in providing new student opportunities.
3. The MFA students contribute significantly to the undergraduate experience by serving as teachers, mentors, and in creating additional opportunities for undergraduates to engage in hands-on production activities.

4. Students from the MFA program have and continue to make significant contributions to the campus and local communities, particularly in the areas of scenic, costume and lighting design for local producing organizations.
5. Students receiving MFAs from this program have a long history of an almost 100% employment rate in jobs in their chosen field, including placements in competitive markets such as technical directors in regional theatres, college and university professors, and professional designers.

Since the vote was close (13 Yes, 12 No, and 1 recused) the Senate is providing pros and cons.  
*\*\*The sentences numbered 1-5 are intended to provide the evidence (reasons) why Senators voted against the suspension of the programs.*

M/S/P (Paynton/Fulgham) to make all three recommendations emergency items for immediate transmittal to the Provost. Voting occurred and **PASSED** with 1 No vote.

### 7. Resolution on Changing the Deadline for Withdrawing from a Course (#24-09/10-APC)

M/S (Van Duzer/VerLinden) to place the resolution on the floor.

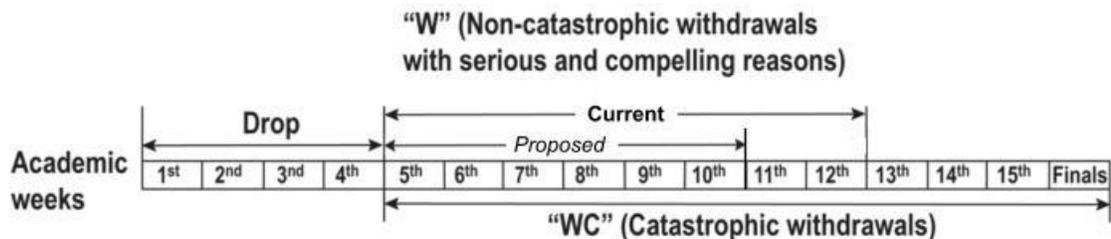
Resolution on Changing the Deadline for Withdrawing from a Course  
#24-09/10-APC – April 13, 2010

**RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University recommends to the President that the period during which students can drop classes with a serious and compelling reason earning a “W” on their academic transcripts be limited to the fifth through tenth week of the semester.

***RATIONALE:** Current policy allows students to drop classes before the twelfth week of the semester. The requirement that students complete a drop before the end of the tenth week will improve student progress towards graduation and limit unwarranted claims of serious and compelling reasons for dropping a course as final grades become imminent.*

*A withdrawal for catastrophic reasons beyond the student’s control (e.g., serious illness) remains an option at any time in the semester and may even be petitioned for after the semester is over.*

**Diagram showing when different types of withdrawals are permitted currently:**



If the resolution is adopted, the period for W (Non-catastrophic withdrawals with serious and compelling reasons) would end on Friday at 5pm of the tenth week of the semester.

Discussion:

- It was moved to change the word “drop” to “withdraw from” in the first resolved clause. This was accepted as a friendly amendment.
- The resolution is not supported. The census has been done, the headcount is taken, the money is in; why does the campus need to be more punitive? The current four week time period is fine.
- It is not convincing that this would change students’ behavior. The result would be students having “F’s” on their transcripts. A compelling reason for one student may not be a compelling reason for another student. This policy is too punitive.
- Chair Mortazavi reminded the Senate that this is one of several recommendations coming from the Graduation Rate Improvement Group.
- The statement of “unwarranted claims” in the rationale sounds like an accusation of lying. If students are going to lie, they will do it at any point. Given the rationale presented, this resolution cannot be supported.
- The real problem is not “W’s” on transcripts – it is the “WU’s” (unofficial withdrawals). This is a distraction from the real problem.
- Faculty are required to provide information on add/drop policies on syllabi; there shouldn’t be any problem communicating this to students.
- The Academic Policies Committee reviewed policies from other CSU campuses and did not find any other campus with as broad a range as what HSU has.
- This doesn’t need to be punitive. Given enough publication of this change, students will adjust their behavior depending on the policy.
- The policy is not intended to be punitive. It is in line with the rest of the CSU’s practice. The question is do we serve students and the university better by bringing this forward, or not? Should students be asked to commit to the end of the semester or withdraw earlier in the semester?
- It was suggested that the term “unwarranted” be removed from the Rationale. This was accepted as a friendly amendment.
- If this would help improve progress toward degree for students, then the Senate should approve it.
- This resolution doesn’t address graduation rates and is not supported. College students should be treated as adults. This is trying to be overly controlling of students’ lives. It is also an unnecessary burden on administrators to determine ‘compelling reasons.’

- Under some circumstances, serious and compelling reasons develop. However, it is difficult for students to dig a hole so deep they cannot save themselves. Moving the date forward may help students buckle down and do the work.
- There is a resource issue to consider. If resources are an issue, then the “re-take” policy needs to be re-examined. Senators were reminded that students are restricted in the number of times they can withdraw and re-take a course; the limit is five overall.
- In terms of the resource issue, is this measure intended to discourage people from signing up for a class?

M/S/P (Van Duzer/Fulgham) to end debate and vote immediately.

Voting on the Resolution #24-09/10-APC as amended occurred and **PASSED** with 16 Yes votes and 5 No votes. The amended resolution reads:

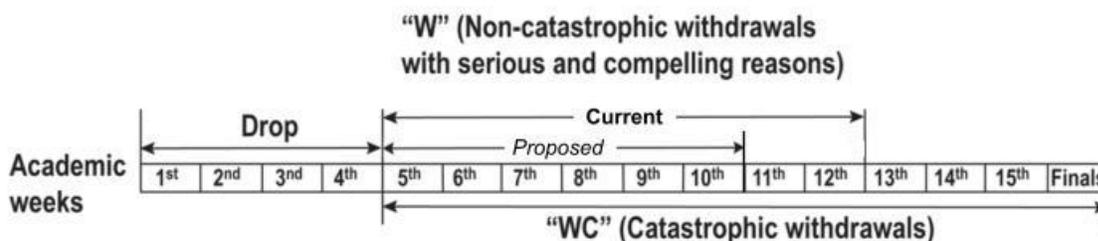
#24-09/10-APC – April 13, 2010

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***RATIONALE:** Current policy allows students to drop classes before the twelfth week of the semester. The requirement that students complete a drop before the end of the tenth week will improve student progress towards graduation and limit claims of serious and compelling reasons for dropping a course as final grades become imminent.*

*A withdrawal for catastrophic reasons beyond the student’s control (e.g., serious illness) remains an option at any time in the semester and may even be petitioned for after the semester is over.*

**Diagram showing when different types of withdrawals are permitted currently:**



If the resolution is adopted, the period for W (Non-catastrophic withdrawals with serious and compelling reasons) would end on Friday at 5pm of the tenth week of the semester.

M/S (Thobaben/Van Duzer) to adjourn.

It was agreed that the Senate will meet again in two weeks. The Senate Executive Committee will meet next Tuesday.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.