

Senate Meeting
December 9, 2011
Minutes

1. **Approval of the Minutes.** The minutes of the November senate meeting were approved.
2. **Report of the Chair, Richard Harnett**

Vice Chair Daniel Langmeyer provided the report and presided over the meeting in Chair Harknett's absence. Per Bob Ambach, Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance, the university's bond ratings have been upgraded by Moody's and Standard & Poor's. We have been upgraded. Before we were an A-1 positive outlook and now we are A-a 3 stable outlook for Moodys. Before for the S and P we were an A+ stable outlook now we are a double A- standard outlook. The Chair's report can be read in its entirety on the Faculty Senate Web Site.
3. **Report of the President of the University of Cincinnati, Gregory Williams**

President Williams announced that a high attendance was expected for December Commencement. The President encouraged faculty to attend both December Graduation and June Graduation. The President indicated that he has made a point of meeting faculty over his last two years in office. He has instituted a lunch with department chairs to this end. He has met with Arts and Sciences department chairs, and he felt that this led to a great discussion with department chairs. He said he was most impressed with the interdisciplinary work that is being done. He reminded the faculty senate that interdisciplinary work is really one of the hallmarks of UC 2019. The President said that he intends to continue meeting with department chairs on main campus and will meet with department chairs at UC Blue Ash and Clermont College as well. On December 2, the President attended the Reception of UC's Office of National Awards, and expressed his thanks to Marla Hall for her efforts in planning the event. The President outlined the numbers of nominees for the Goldwater, Truman and Rhodes scholarships. UC has had four Rhodes Scholars but none since 1938 and one Marshall Scholarship in 1965. We need to work on that record. He appreciates the work that Marla Hall has done but we need to take that and move forward. President Williams concluded by relaying the sad news of two shooting deaths on the Virginia Tech campus this very afternoon.
4. **Discussion of Reports of Standing Committees**

Vice Chair Langmeyer gave a status report from the Budget and Priorities Committee and indicated that there would be a full presentation at the January Senate meeting. We will be required to take less of a percentage hit than we have in the past, but the bad side is that the Deans are reporting that we are at capacity. It is hard to know how we can grow in that situation which means we all need to be creative.
5. **UC Diversity Plan**

Vice President Mitchell Livingston and Dean Billionis presented the UC Diversity Plan. This is not the only effort we have made to address the issue of diversity. It is probably one of the more informed processes, one of the more broad-based initiatives, and one that reflects a level of engagement in terms of breadth and depth across this institution. It is also one that is transparent and has a system of accountability where we state our intentions as an institution collectively. We have indicated a time frame and have identified all levels of responsibility, where people will be held accountable for

what is in the document. This document will be a part of our formal planning and assessment. This is a special initiative. From this point onward this is a process of implementation. With the publication of the five year plan, UC is now in the implementation phase as key objectives have been identified. The key objectives are areas where movement needs to occur. Diversity will be part of the annual goal and assessment process as a priority. This is integrated into UC 2019. Deans will be held accountable. The Diversity Council, a vital representative body, will be checking on the process. The plan is structured to interface with the administrative process at UC. Faculty members have a vital role to play in transforming the culture of the university. Vice president Livingston and Dean Bilonis indicated that, going forward, they are eager to work with faculty and Faculty Senate. The discussion was opened up to questions from Senators.

6. Accommodated Testing

Heidi Pettyjohn, Program Manager and Coordinator of Psychometric Services – Testing Center and Student Services, presented an overview of joint efforts of her office and Disability Services to coordinate testing services for students with disabilities. Her office provides standardized testing to students, and now handles testing accommodations as well. Her office would like faculty to submit tests for students online instead of in hard copy. They want to insure that students receive tests just the way they would receive them in the classroom except for their accommodations. Students must take their test at the same time as the rest of the class except in situations where they need more time due to their accommodations. She reports that her office has received a great deal of support from faculty for their efforts. She wants to survey faculty for feedback regarding her office's services.

7. Report of the Student Government Association

Al Hagerty, Undergraduate Student Body President, reported on recent discussions of the future of Night Walk. This service is currently provided by volunteers. The volunteer positions may turn into paid jobs in future. We need to make sure that ultimately safety is the priority. The report of the Smoking Task Force will be brought forward to all three governing bodies to move toward a smoke-free campus. "Beyond Coal" is a student movement with interest in stopping the use of coal as an energy source for UC.

8. Report of the Graduate Student Government Association President

There was no report.

9. Report of the President of the AAUP

There was no report.

10. Provost Input Session

Provost Ono thanked the Senate for our input in to the AMP process. The Provost then opened the session to questions, and was asked to provide information on "UC Forward". The Provost indicated that this is a brand created for a specific part of what has been going on for a long time at UC. It is related to finding external funding for inter-disciplinary efforts on campus. Examples of such efforts are the Niehoff Studio and the Livewell Collaborative, interdisciplinary activities that are already going on in the arts and sciences and any other interdisciplinary activities of faculty and students that would occur in the future. Buck Niehoff, former Chair of the Board of Trustees, and his family began the Niehoff Studio to underpin multidisciplinary research and teaching within a physical structure on Vine Street. The funding from Buck Niehoff is drying up now. It is a place where UC

faculty and students work together on real world problems. Richard Miller, Chair-Elect, discussed the collaboration between engineering students and the community through the Niehoff Studio. The Livewell Collaborative is comprised of teams of students and faculty who work with companies to take on real world problems. It prepares students to deal with real world problems from their disciplinary prospective. When they graduate they are ahead of their counterparts who have not had such experiences. This is what UC Forward is about. There is also a simulation center where faculty, students, and outside businesses tackle real world problems. This is an important UC Brand, and it can be used to help secure funds from outside sources. The Provost was asked about how we will deal with capacity at UC. The Provost responded that there is a task force working on sizes of entering classes to safeguard quality. Provost Ono was asked about the status of the recognition of tenure celebration. The Provost indicated that he was fully supportive of this, but was not directly involved. He did say that he wanted the Senate to let Chair Harknett know that he was fully supportive of a tenure celebration. There was a question regarding the status of the review of doctoral programs. He indicated that he did not know the final outcome of the process yet. The Provost indicated that the next step is his review where, working with the Vice President for Research, programs will be graded. They will be graded A, B, C and fail. UC will invest in those areas where we excel, with financial restraints and less money from the state factoring in the review.

11. Announcements

There were no announcements.

- 12. Adjournment.** Motion to adjourn: The motion to adjourn the December meeting of the Faculty Senate carried.

Respectfully submitted by: Wanda C. McCarthy, Ph.D., Secretary of the Faculty Senate