

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE
October 2, 2001

Chairperson Nowell called the October 2, 2001 meeting of the University Senate to order at 3:22 p.m. in the Alumni Auditorium of the Eberly College of Business.

The following Senators were **excused** from the meeting: M. Anthony, H. Boda, C. Carranza, B. Carter, D. Hulings, S. Krevel, F. Nee, W. Nunn., H. Powers, M. Sadler, R. Soni, G. Torges-Hoffman, V. Watson.

The following Senators (students) were **excused** from the meeting: C. Munn, M. Savidge, A. Thomas.

The following Senators were **absent** from the meeting: O. Agozino, M. Ashamalla, R. Camp, D.

the designation of their members. Staff support for the council will be provided by the executive director for planning and analysis, who reports directly to the president.

Second, I ask the Senate to appoint a special committee to work with me and my senior staff in analyzing and recommending changes in the way in which the university makes decisions. The aim, however, is not to disperse power and slow down the process. The aim is to figure out how we can move faster and still preserve shared governance. Perhaps we have to re-define shared governance so that it fits contemporary circumstances. Perhaps we have to think of this hallowed academic concept as something that must serve the best interests of the university as a whole, rather than the best interests of the university's constituent parts. In any event, we need to determine how we can fast track certain decisions in certain circumstances without weakening the legitimacy of the decision once it is made. We need to bring into balance process and outcomes. Process is important, but universities have a habit of enshrining process to the point of ignoring the outcome. I have seen too many examples of where a university group congratulates itself for having dotted all the i's and crossed all the t's, and is impervious to the mediocrity of the result. I wish to preserve community, I wish to honor process, but I want only the best results for this university. I hope that we will have a committee of persons willing to take on this task. It could be one of the most important contributions anyone has made to IUP in several years.

Thank you.

PROVOST'S REPORT (Dr. Staszkiwicz)

At the last Senate meeting I reported that as part of the State System's Performance and Outcome Planning process, IUP will need to review all low enrolled programs and courses. In response to a question from Senator Rafoth, I indicated that this process would involve faculty. The review will have to take place this fall semester and the analysis and decisions will need to be concluded by the end of the spring semester. Working with the Council of Deans, we have developed a series of questions that deans will work with faculty to answer. These include:

Low Enrolled Majors

1. What are the enrollment levels in required courses in the major? In major specific electives?
2. Are there related majors in the department and/or other departments? What are their enrollment levels? What consolidation or overlap is possible?
3. How central is the program to the mission of the University, college or department? Is it a vital part of an Area of Special Competency and Distinction?
4. What is the impact of accreditation and/or regulatory agencies? Provide specific documentation.
5. Is the program a System designated high need area?
6. Do special programmatic needs or faculty competencies impact the number of majors that can be served?
7. Is availability of qualified/specialized faculty an issue?
8. What are the costs (including complement) of the program and potential savings if the program were reduced or eliminated?
9. What are the costs associated with increasing enrollments to an acceptable level?

Low Enrolled Courses

1. How many sections are offered? How often? What is their enrollment?
2. Are there locationl issues or special audiences to serve?
3. How many majors require the course?
4. What are available alternatives? (e.g., other liberal studies or electives)
5. Are there physical or equipment constraints?
6. Are there accreditation and/or regulatory constraints?
7. How central is the course to specific majors?
8. What are the costs and potential savings?
9. What are the costs associated with increasing enrollments?

At this point, we are still early in the process and have begun to identify the type of information that will be needed. I want to emphasize that NO decision has been made about any program or set of courses. We expect that deans and faculty will work together to provide appropriate information so that informed decisions can be made.

We all recognize that the recent decision on the University School has left many concerned about the process used in making such decisions and I hope that the process in reviewing the credit-bearing programs will be accepted. Certainly, it will feed nicely into the planning council model President Pettit has just announced.

Our Rules Committee has examined the process that was followed – or not followed – by the administration, and they came to the conclusion that the Senate Constitution has been violated. Therefore, I sent the following message to the President and the Provost:

Drs. Pettit and Staszkiwicz:

As Chair of the IUP Senate, I am informing you that the Rules Committee of the Senate voted at its recent meeting that, in regards to your recent presentation to the Council of Trustees of a motion to close the University School, you have violated the constitution of the Senate. The Constitution requires you to consult with the Senate regarding decisions related to policies and academic programs at the University, except under certain circumstances. Let me quote from the constitution

"Purpose:

The purpose of the University Senate is to provide a formal means through which the student body, faculty, staff, and the administration, working as a unified group, shall have a representative share in the governance of the University. In order to further a sense of University community on all issues of governance, the Senate shall have a consultative role to the President and Council of Trustees that is designed to empower the Senate with a significant voice in the governance of the University. The University Senate shall approve all curricular matters before they are implemented.....

.....The Senate can study any issue of university governance and make recommendations to the President and Council of Trustees. The President and the Council of Trustees, (when possible), shall provide the University Senate an opportunity to review all policies and make recommendations prior to their implementation.

As a matter of expediency, occasionally it may be necessary for administrative personnel, during the normal exercise of their duties, to initiate or modify policies when there is insufficient time to present such matters to the University Senate for consultation. The initiators of such policies shall immediately give notification of their action to the senate Chair and the Chair of the Rules Committee. If it applies, notification shall also be given to the Chair of the Senate Committee within whose purview subject policy matters ordinarily fall. Such policies will automatically be included as New Business on the agenda of the Senate meeting immediately following such enactment."

Neither the chair of the Rules Committee nor myself received any notification from you indicating that there was any "matter of expediency" in the decision about the University School, nor were we notified following the decision. The Rules Committee has requested that the other provision [be followed]-- placing the decision on the agenda as New Business will be done at the coming Senate meeting. Please be prepared to present the circumstances that led to this decision requiring expediency on the part of the administration and why myself and Dr. Radell were not notified.

Furthermore, Dr. Radell and I are of the opinion that you have violated the state law governing the institutions of the State System of Higher Education. In "Act 188 - Section 20-2010-A.

Senate Committees as seen appropriate. Membership should include faculty, students, and staff, as well as administrators. I hope that this will be a positive step in moving away from unilateral decisions and toward shared governance.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT (Senator Coulson)

Student Congress has been working on the following activities this month:

- President Cramer and I met with Dr. Pettit in order to form an AD-HOC committee to find possible alternatives to the current mascot. Student Congress plans to set up polling places to survey the student population in residence halls and the dining facilities. Once the survey is completed, SC plans on taking the most popular alternative from the survey results, and then eventually presenting them to the Board of Trustees in the spring.
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STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Chairperson Hall)

The Student Affairs committee met on September 18th. Routine business was set aside in order to discuss the recent national tragedy and its impact on the university community. The next meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2001 at 3:30 p.m. in the Oak Room West.

UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (Chairperson Domaracki)

This committee will meet on Tuesday, October 9, 2001 in 257 Davis at 3:15 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS-University School Closing

An extensive discussion was held regarding the recent decision to close the University School. Dr. Hechtman, Director of the University School addressed the Senate regarding the time line of being told of the potential closure through the actual decision by the Council of Trustees. Numerous questions were asked and Senators Pettit and Staszkiwicz responded, particularly questions as to what must and must not come to the senate.

It was moved by Senator Radell and seconded by Senator Bransford to request Senators Pettit and Staszkiwicz to bring to the senate at the next meeting documents and evidence as to how and when the decision was made to close the University School, and the legal justification/legal counsel's rationale for not bringing the decision to the University Senate. Senator Duntley added a friendly amendment, which was seconded and passed, that the information provided by Drs. Pettit, and Staszkiwicz should be sent directly to the Rules Committee. The motion passed.

During this discussion, motions were made to extend the meeting first to 5:10 p.m. and then 5:25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan B. Smith, Ed.D.

APPENDIX A
Rules Committee
Chairperson Radell

Rules Committee Report

Response to request of the Senate Chair to rule on the constitutionality of the process of a decision:

The committee rules [that] the manner in which the decision to close the University School was made is in violation of the University Senate Constitution. [adopted by majority vote of the Rules Committee on September 25, 2001].

Excerpts from supporting documents:

IUP SENATE CONSTITUTION
Revised 10/2000

PURPOSE

Pennsylvania ACT 188: Powers and Duties of Presidents

...(2) To make and implement specific campus policies pertaining to instructional programs, research programs, and public service programs and academic standards in accordance with policies of the Board following consultation with council, faculty, and students....

2001-2002 Undergraduate Catalog Indiana, Pennsylvania 15705

...The University School provides a program of instruction for students in kindergarten through sixth grade. In addition, the school offers a rich variety of experimental and research activities for IUP faculty and students. Faculty members from disciplines as varied as music, physical education, Spanish, elementary education, and special education have ongoing programs which are carried out at the university School. Each year, hundreds of teacher education students participate in activities such as observations, lesson presentations, and student teaching. Graduate students utilize the University School to conduct research on teaching and learning. Research and experimental activities are scheduled with the director of the University School.

D. Course Requirements for Students Admitted as Freshmen and Course Requirements for Students Admitted as Sophomores--

102, from which they are exempted.	102, from which they are exempted.
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Rationale for Change:

The primary academic reason for adding HNRC 202 to the honors program is to strengthen and broaden the core sequence by including the natural and social sciences. The *Plan for an IUP Honors College* (adopted by the Senate in 1992) created a core sequence comprised entirely of humanities and fine arts

some highly successful and demanding courses, such as ENGL 208 Art of the Film, are not, and there seems no justification for excluding them on either an academic or practical basis.

A final rationale for the change relates to national credibility and thus to recruiting of superior students. Common shortcomings of honors programs are that they are weak in the sciences and are front-loaded in the first two or three semesters. This revision, which brings the natural and social sciences into the core and extends the program through to the senior synthesis course, will significantly improve the quality, and thus the recognition, of IUP's program.

Requirements for students entering the Honors College as sophomores are being similarly adjusted. The creation of HNRC 202 should significantly strengthen the program for these students by giving them two core experiences rather than one. The total of required credits is being lowered from 18 to 17 so that the number of additional hours is a multiple of three, the typical semester hours for an honors elective. The revision thus removes an existing awkwardness since the current requirement is for 11 additional hours.

The new requirements will be effective for students admitted to the Honors College after the program is approved and appears in the catalog. Students enrolled prior to the new program's full approval will have the option of meeting either the old or new requirements.