



Senate Minutes

Tuesday, September 15, 2015 | 3:30 PM | O'Malley 100 (Alumni Room)

In Attendance: Salwa Ammar, Shawna BuShell, Jawanza Clark, William Clyde, Antonio Cordoba, Yegin Genc, Andrew Greene, Amy Handfield, Kimberly Hickey, Kevin Hill, Matthew Jura, Fiona Maclachlan, Peter McCarthy, Michael McEneney, Margaret McKiernan, William Merriman, Goli Nossoni, Richard Satterlee, Giancarlo Schillaci, Qian Wang.

Absent: Sonny Ago (excused), Alex Shalian.

- I. Roll was taken. Quorum was met. Meeting called to order by Speaker Jura at 3:41 PM.
- II. The Agenda for the September 15, 2015 meeting of the Senate was approved.
- III. The Minutes of the May 6th, 2015 meeting of the Senate were approved.
- IV. Speaker Jura read an excerpt from p. 36 of the "Green Book."
- V. Presentation by President O'Donnell on the state of the college.
 - A. President's Report will be available late Nov. to early Dec.
 - B. Revenue is up due to summer conference services, better use of facilities, and summer intersessions.
 - C. 903 new first-year students; possibly largest freshman class ever.
 - D. 3385 undergraduate students, which is up 120 from last year. This is a result of continuing strength in retention and a significant increase in transfer students.
 - E. All schools met enrollment targets.
 - F. 36% students are first-generation college students.
 - G. Resident halls are completely full.
 - H. We are in the 2nd phase of the Strategic Plan.
 - I. There will be at least one "town hall meeting" regarding the Facilities Master Plan.
 - J. President O'Donnell mentioned renovating STEM spaces, turning Smith Auditorium into a theater, and updating all classroom spaces.
 - K. Two major upcoming studies:
 1. STEM Study: architects and construction consultants will make recommendations regarding renovating existing facilities and construction of a new building.
 2. Housing Study: With additional growth and new graduate programs, what should be our capacity?
 - L. Dante space is being renovated and will bring together various student support services.
 - M. Stained-glass windows were acquired and will be installed in the chapel. A formal dedication ceremony will occur April 7th.
 - N. President O'Donnell answered questions regarding lower summer tuition and student yield.
- VI. Speaker's Report: Speaker Matthew Jura
 - A. Senate documents are available on Google Drive and the Moodle Community Server.
 - B. During the last meeting, the athletics committee was charged with considering to start a cost/benefit analysis.
 - C. There are open positions on committees meeting with the Board of Trustees.
- VII. Reports from the Standing Committees
 - A. Educational Affairs Commission (EAC): Senator William Clyde
 1. EAC meets the 1st Tuesdays of the month.
 2. A second member from the Senate is needed.
 - B. Campus Life Committee: Senator Richard Satterlee

1. Results from the Smoking Policy survey were presented:
 - a. There were 763 responses. Overall, smoking is considered an intrusive activity.
 - b. Enforcement of a ban would be difficult.
 - c. Alternatively, designate four places on campus for smoking.
 - d. Next, the committee will develop written policy and discuss enforcement.
 - e. There will be a trial period for the academic year with designated smoking spaces, followed by a review.
 - f. Engage public communication and public safety.
2. Motion to charge Campus Life Committee to develop policy for Senate's consideration passed unanimously.
3. There was a suggestion to reconsider move-out timing in the residence halls.
4. Move-out waste is a problem that may be helped with a more aggressive donation campaign.

VIII. Old Business - There was no old business.

IX. New Business

- A. Senator Clyde started a discussion on energizing the Senate and making it a popular forum for community discussion.
- B. Suggestions included submitting an advertisement or letter-to-editor in the Quadrangle a week before Senate meetings.
- C. Senator Handfield volunteered to maintain a Senate Twitter account.

X. Adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by A. K. Greene