

# **Penn State Berks Senate**

**Monday, December 1, 2008**

**1:00-2:30 PM, Multi-Purpose Room**

## **Agenda**

- **Call to Order**
- **Additions, Corrections, and Approval of Minutes of the October 20, 2008 meeting**
- **Announcements by the Chair**
- **Reports of Officers and University Senators**
  - Vice Chair Dunbar
  - Secretary and Senator Zambanini
  - Senator Aynardi
  - Senator Bowers
  - Senator Nasereddin
  - Senator and Parliamentarian Romberger
  - Student Senator Karazsia
- **Comments and Announcements by Administrators**
  - Chancellor Speece
  - Associate Dean Esqueda
- **Unfinished Business**
- **Motions from Committees**

- **Informational Reports from Committees**
  - Report of the Senate Ad-Hoc Committee on Free Speech, Executive Committee (**Appendix A**)
  - Physical Facilities and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes, November 14, 2008 (**Appendix B**)
  - Student Life Committee Minutes, November 3, 2008 (**Appendix C**)
- **New Legislative Business**
- **Forensic Business** – Scanning for Risk Security Analysis, Chief Information Officer
- **Adjournment**

**Penn State Berks Senate**  
**Monday, October 20, 2008**  
**1:00-2:30 PM, Multi-Purpose Room**

Attendees: Katie Amaral, Mohamad Ansari, Jennifer Arnold, David Aurentz, Martha Aynardi, David Bender, Tim Bossard, William H. Bowers, Jayne Brown, Ruth Daly, Jennifer Dareneau, Maureen Dunbar, Valetta Eshbach, Bob Forrey, Paul Frye, Leonard Gamberg, Cesar Martinez-Garza, Hassan Gourama, Jui-Chi Huang, James Karlinsey, Samantha Kavky, Abdullah Konak, Gary Kunkelman, Sadan Kulturel, Dan Litvin, Cesar Martinez-Garza, Tami Mysliwiec, Mahdi Nasereddin, Rungun Nathan, Randall Newnham, JoAnne Pumariega, Jianbing Qi, Mike Riley, Andy Romberger, Jean Rose, Daniel Russell, John Shank, Ike Shibley, Stephen Snyder, Rosario Torres, Lorena Tribe, James Walter, Amy White-Berger, Janet Winter, Bob Zambanini (Faculty); Cindy Balliett, (Staff); Pradip Bandyopadhyay, Kim Berry, Mary Lou D'Allegro, Paul Esqueda, Walt Fullam, Janelle Larson, Dennis Mays, Belen Rodriguez-Mourelou, Susan Phillips Speece (Administration); Timothy Hillert, Bob Isaacson, Tyler Washburn, Zachary Karazsia (Students); and Fagan (Service Dog)

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of Minutes of the Preceding Meetings – Minutes of September 22, 2008 – *approved***
3. **Announcements by the Chair** – Professor Robert Buczynski is on medical leave this semester. He has been replaced on the Ad Hoc Committee on First Year Engagement Plan and Strategic Planning and Budget Committee by Professor Lolita Paff. The Chair wishes to acknowledge Professor Buczynski's valuable contributions and thank Professor Paff for taking on additional responsibilities.
4. **Reports of Officers and University Senators (Appendix A)**
  - **Vice Chair Dunbar – No report**
  - **Secretary and Senator Zambanini** – The Curricular Affairs Committee will meet tomorrow. A report on checking course prerequisites, a report on P-11 authorization for offering courses, and a number of course proposals will be considered.
  - **Senator Aynardi – No Report**
  - **Senator Bowers – No Report**
  - **Senator Nasereddin – No Report**
  - **Senator and Parliamentarian Romberger** – Provost Erickson will give a brief report on the University budget and planning. The news will not be good. Otherwise, there will be a very light agenda.
  - **SGA Senator Karazsia- No report**
5. **Comments and Announcements by Administrators**
  - **Chancellor Speece**
    - The Choir did a great job. Fagan, the service dog, made his debut and was a hit. Please plan to attend the next concert on December 12, 2008.
    - Dr. Erickson & Dr. Spanier spoke about the economy and its effect on Penn State at the last Academic Leadership Council. There will be a short fall of between two and three billion dollars in the state budget. The first recision was about 4.65%. The campuses and University Park colleges paid in .75%. The University picked up the remainder. The bad news is that with this type of deficit, we may see a second recision. University Park will not be able to handle the bulk of this amount. We will be seeing a larger part of the

recision. You are asked again to be frugal. Our campus has been able to absorb this type of expense in the past; we hope we can continue to do so.

- Penn State has not been immune to the ups and downs of the economic situation and is just as vulnerable as anyone else. Our new building is far enough along in the planning process that it should not be delayed. The Board of Trustees will meet in November, January and March. Our construction bids will go before the board at that time. We should be in good condition because funding has been secured for both the Medical School and our building. The worst-case scenario that could result is that there may be a delay of a few months, but it probably is not likely.
- Mary Lou D'Allegro will be talking about the NSSE Report. This report is an important parameter for self study and to compare ourselves to other institutions and our peer institutions. Penn State Berks is again the leader in this area within the University.
- **Associate Dean Esqueda**
  - The Celebrating Teaching Colloquium will be held on December 18. The morning will be devoted to general education and the long term impact of gen-ed requirements on our students.
  - Commencement will be on December 20, 2008. Faculty members are asked to attend.
  - The Faculty Retreat will take place in January 2009. Topic of retreat will be "Implementing the Strategic Plan" and will include a surprise guest speaker in the morning.

## 6. Unfinished Business – None

## 7. Motions from Committees

- **Legislative Report on Commuting Student Resources: A Joint Report from the Student Life and Physical Facilities Committees (Appendix A) – Ike Shibley and Leonard Gamberg**
  - This report is a joint recommendation from both committees. It builds on the work of last year's committee to give consideration to student space in planning and new building initiatives. Students are in need of space for studying and gathering. Approving a motion such as this one could result in more consideration being given to student space issues across campus.
  - Space in the Student Center, Luerssen, and the new building is needed. This need also impacts classroom space.
  - The time restraint listed in the motion is August 2010. The Chair asked if the Committee Chairs would consider taking out the effective date of August 2010. The committee and the Senate members were in agreement.
  - A vote on the motion was called. The electronics voting devices were distributed to voting members.
  - The motion was *approved*.

## 8. Informational Reports from Committees

- **Undergraduate Research in the Dossier – Faculty Affairs Committee (Appendix B) – Dan Litvin**
- **Strategic Planning and Budget Committee Minutes from September 24, 2008 Meeting (Appendix C) – Steve Snyder**
  - A summary of the minutes was provided. The summary of salary data was not complete. This topic will be discussed in the Forensic discussion.
  - Concerns were noted: 1.) salary equity among college the disciplines; 2.) unequal pay for equal work; 3.) the perception problem of market circumstances determining pay scales.

- **Student Life Committee Meeting Minutes from October 6, 2008 (Appendix D) – Ike Shibley**

**9. New Legislative Business – None**

**10. Forensic Business**

- **National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) (Appendix E) – Mary Lou D’Allegro**
  - A PowerPoint presentation was given explaining what the NSSE is and other background information.
  - A random sample of a cohort of first year students and a cohort of senior students was taken with a survey containing 70 questions. These questions dealt with the level of academic challenge, student /faculty interaction active and collaborative learning, enriching educational experiences and supportive campus environment.
  - Middle States Accreditation and the American Association of Colleges and Universities endorse the NSSE as a good source of assessment of student learning.
  - Seven hundred institutions of higher learning are surveyed, including seven other Penn State campuses, five or six Big Ten schools and 25 peer institutions which are similar to Berks.
  - Survey results have been reported and discussed with the Faculty Senate Subcommittee on Student Life, Administrative Council, and Retention Council. Next month, a summary of the results will be discussed with the First Year Experience team. There will also be an NSSE Committee established to focus on several of the components of the survey and make recommendations to share with many areas of the campus.
  - More information and the PowerPoint presentation can be accessed on the P-Drive, in Appendix E in the additional hand-out distributed at the meeting, and on the NSSE website <http://nsse.iub.edu>.
- **University Faculty Senate Report on Faculty Salaries, Academic Year 2007-2008 (Appendix F)**
  - The Chair requested to go on the record as stating that the Senate has not acted irresponsibly with respect to the current economic trouble that the country is currently experiencing. The report came out in April 2008, and the Senate committees were charged five months prior to the significant economic downturn that has hit our nation.
  - The Chair displayed the tables which he prepared for the ranks of Professor and Associate Professor for 2004-2005 and 2006-07. They show that when Berks was merged with the Lehigh Valley campus as Berks-Lehigh Valley College, we scored higher in faculty salaries in both these areas. When the campuses were separated, Berks dipped below the ranking of 2005-2006 versus 2007-2008. Berks Campus salaries for full Professor and Associate Professor rank at the bottom of the Penn State campus locations for 2006-2007.
  - The Chair noted that the Senate’s purpose is to get information out to the faculty and discuss these issues and that we are not here to be greedy, especially in light of the current economic climate. This issue is, however, an important one to the members.
  - Discussion on faculty salaries was open to the Senate members. Comparison with peers at University Park was noted and it was felt that we should be comparable to other four year colleges. Questions as to why this is happening were raised.
  - Dr. Esqueda agreed that there is need for improvement, but more information is needed to further assess the problem.
  - The Committee is still looking into whether starting salaries or raises are fueling this issue. Patience is asked as the Committee digs for information on salaries.

- It was noted by the Chair that it is the aim of the University Faculty Senate's report to compare the Penn State faculty salaries with those of our peer institutions. What is striking is that Berks Campus has fallen behind every other campus in the University. The Senate is addressing why there is such a discrepancy between University College faculty and Berks salaries.
- It was noted that we are often told by University Park that they are pleased with what we are doing. If we are considered as a leader amongst campuses and are carrying more than our share of the weight, why are we not being compensated accordingly?

## **11. Adjournment**

APPENDIX A  
**Report of the Senate ad hoc Committee on Free Speech**  
**October 2008**

The Committee met on October 15, 2008.

In attendance: Randall Newnham (Chair), Paul Esqueda, Blaine Steensland, Kim Berry, Katie Ameral and Amy Berger.

The Committee discussed a number of issues related to the exercise of free speech on campus. Concerns had been raised this spring about several issues. Outside groups saw difficulties in gaining access to campus to leaflet, hold informational tables, and reserve rooms for events. Priority is given to events sponsored by on-campus organizations. This can be a problem on a small campus such as ours, where events/groups may lack an on-campus sponsor. For example, we missed some events we could have had during the intense Clinton/Obama primary this spring since those campaigns were seen as ‘outside’ groups and no College Democrats group existed at the time to sponsor their events.

The Committee discussed several different issues and made some suggestions:

1. It is a problem for groups to distribute leaflets freely on campus, since rules bar “accosting” individuals. Thus tables may be a better solution.
2. It should be possible for outside groups to set up informational tables, provided this is pre-approved by Student Affairs. Of course this is easier if the group in question has some sort of on-campus sponsorship. Therefore, when contacted, Student Affairs should try to make suggestions about finding such sponsorship. (For example, a political table could be sponsored by SGA or College Democrats or Republicans.)
3. Procedures for reserving a room for outside groups may be too complex at present. Such inquiries are currently directed to the Business Office, which normally rents rooms to outside businesses. We should do a better job at finding on-campus sponsors for outside non-profit groups if they truly have a message which could interest the campus, thus making it easier for rooms to be reserved.
4. In all, the situation can be improved if we are clearer in communicating with groups how they can gain access to campus. Rather than turning groups down, Student Affairs and other offices should work to find ways to make events happen within existing rules.

In addition, there was a consensus that the campus itself needs to be more pro-active in reaching out to bring more diverse voices to the campus. Dr. Esqueda pointed to PSU Behrend as an example, where ‘public engagement’ is a key campus objective. If we sponsor events ourselves (sponsorship by a student club, as part of a class, or arranged directly by Student Affairs or another campus office) there is no question about a group’s ability to appear on campus. For example, if the Clinton and Obama campaigns were having difficulty gaining access to campus this spring, we could have stepped in and planned a debate or other events which would have allowed the campaigns to make their views heard—in a campus-sponsored event. Unfortunately, the current campus lecture series, while offering many interesting programs, is planned very far in advance. It was suggested that Student Affairs should be willing to sponsor events touching on ‘late-breaking’ issues—a “Current Events” forum, which would be better suited to respond to various ‘causes’ which might want to bring speakers or events to campus. A good example would have been arranging debates on campus as part of both the spring and fall campaigns in this hotly contested election year.

--Dr. Randall Newnham, Chair, Faculty Senate ad hoc Committee on Free Speech

**APPENDIX B**  
**Physical Facilities and Safety Committee Meeting**  
**November 14, 2008**  
**Thun 137**  
**1PM-2:30PM**  
**Minutes**

**Members attending:** Jennifer Arnold, Leonard Gamberg, Paul Frye, Sudip Gosh, Kim Berry, Mark Dawson, Khled Abdou (Wednesday meeting with Leonard)

**1) Introductions**

- a. Mark Dawson, Assistant Director of Operations, who was invited by the Chair and committee members to attend meetings was introduced by Kim Berry and welcomed.

**2) Charge, Emeritus Faculty Space**

- a. "History"
- b. Future
- c. The committee discussed the "Emeritus Faculty Space" and all agreed that there is a need for additional office space. Kim and Leonard will put together a draft for some recommendations.

**3) Other charges**

**4) Open Discussion**

- a. The committee discussed the new B.E.I.S.T. Building Project and the Luerssen Renovation Project. Kim reported that the moneys for both of these projects are still allocated.
- b. The committee discussed ADA access across the Campus. Kim reported that the Bookstore will be receiving two new automatic doors this Fall; one on the exterior door and one on the interior vestibule door. Other ADA items discussed where the Campus Walkways and ADA Parking.
- c. Kim reported on the "Campus Beatification Program" and that it would be phased over a four year period: year 1 – replace Campus directional signage and parking signage, year 2 – main entrance campus sign, year 3 and 4 – redo all walk-ways and entrances Campus wide. Discussion followed.
- d. Kim informed the Committee that the Campus has started an "Athletic Field Feasibility Study". Discussion followed.

**5) Future Business**



**APPENDIX C**  
**Student Life Committee Minutes**  
**November 3, 2008**

In Attendance: Mary-Lou D'Allegro, Tom Gavigan, Bruce Hale, Jui-Chi Huang, James Karlinsey, Eric Lindsey, Cheryl Nicholas, Ike Shibley, Blaine Steensland, Tyler Washburn

The third meeting of the Student Life Committee dealt with Athletics. Blaine Steensland, Bill Sutherland, and Bruce Hale drafted an Informational Report on athletics with the assistance of Kate Corcoran, the Sports Information Director. Bill reported that there are currently twelve NCAA Division III teams. The NCAA requires that the College field at least one team in each of the three sports seasons, have gender representation equal to the overall college community, and impose academic eligibility guidelines. By 2010 two more teams must be added to the athletic roster. Berks belongs to the North East Athletic Conference (NEAC).

As the report was reviewed several points were raised. The suggestion was made to broaden the report to focus on club sports and intramural sports as well as NCAA Division III athletics. A question was asked about the number of GHA credits an athlete may earn over a career at Penn State. The University-wide allotment is 2.0 credits one time only for a sports season and these criteria will be included in the report. Information was provided regarding the eligibility standards for Berks athletes: almost identical criteria are used for Berks athletes as UP athletes. Mary Lou volunteered to examine graduation rates for Berks athletes over the past few years and she will report back to the committee. The committee agreed that the report should also include more information that advisors and instructors can use to better meet the academic needs of athletes.

The next meeting of Student Life is scheduled for Monday December 8 at 12:00 PM. The report on athletics will be voted on, Tyler will update the committee on SGA and the Student Activities Fee, and a discussion of faculty involvement in extracurricular activities will begin.