

**Faculty Senate Minutes  
March 6, 2002 Meeting**

**Members Present:**

Mitzi Bass, Ana Caldwell, Vonna Cranston, Dennis DiMarzio, Jane Dunn (for Mike Matthews), Kevin Durand, James Engman, Laura Festa, John Graves, Julia Hall, Duane Jackson, Wray Jones, Travis Langley, Catherine Leach, Michael Lloyd, Laura Lockwood, Marielle McFarland, Michael Miller (for Claudia Beach), Richard Miller, Rick McDaniel (for Jules Mollere), Richard Schmid, Phillip Schroeder, Shanta Sharma, Bruce Smith and David Stoddard.

**Members absent:**

Lea Ann Alexander, John Long, Hal McAfee

**Others Present:** Jamie Canale (Staff Senate), Charles Dunn, Carolyn Eoff, Robert Houston, Annie Otwell (*Oracle*), Nathan Vandiver (*Oracle*), Fred Worth

The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate President Richard Schmid at 3:15 pm.

**Invited Guests President Dr. Charles Dunn and Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Robert Houston**

Senate President Richard Schmid introduced President Dunn and Vice President Houston, who had been invited to speak to the senate on matters concerning faculty governance. They presented their views on faculty governance, on the nature of the relationship between the Board of Trustees, the administration and the faculty, and on recent discussions involving policy-making on campus. Dr. Dunn emphasized the fact that legally, the only policy-making body on campus is the Board of Trustees. Dr. Houston commented on the need for correcting some language in the graduate catalog that incorrectly describes the nature of some governing decisions at Henderson.

Questions were solicited from those present. The ensuing discussions included the process by which the decision to re-instate the ROTC program was made, the manner in which recommendations from advisory committees on campus are or should be communicated to the Board, and the outlook for funding decisions to be made in the upcoming (2003) legislative session.

Following questions, President Schmid thanked Dr. Dunn and Dr. Houston for meeting with the senate.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the February 13th Senate meeting were approved.

**President's Report**

President Schmid reported on his meeting with Dr. Dunn, including answers to a number of questions submitted by senators during the last meeting.

*The status of implementation of the Information Technology Minor.* Full implementation of the minor has been delayed. It will be reconsidered in 2003.

*The use of funds to purchase Christmas decorations for the Captain Henderson House, and sensitivity to issues of diversity.* Dr. Dunn explained that the Christmas decorations had been purchased for the Tour of Homes, which happened to be taking place at Christmas time. He agreed that the question concerning recognition of only one religion was a point well taken, and that there should be no direction in decoration that will offend anyone.

*The question of how to determine the level of bonded indebtedness.* Information on indebtedness is on file in the library in the *University Financial Report*.

*Administrative Handbook.* President Schmid displayed a copy of the *Administrative Handbook*. Individuals who are interested in the document may borrow it from him. It will eventually be placed in the library.

*The financing of sorority houses by Henderson.* Dr. Dunn described how fees from sororities would cover both the principal and the interest for the financing of the houses.

Schmid solicited questions to take to President Dunn at their next meeting.

## **Committee Reports**

### ***Academics Committee***

No report.

### ***Operations Committee***

The committee moved, and received a second, for the following statement.

Whereas: The Henderson State University Faculty Senate announces meetings to the President of the University, the Faculty Senate members, and to all other members of the faculty and administration prior to the meetings of the Faculty Senate.

Whereas: the Faculty Senate includes one representative from the Student Government Association and one representative of the Staff Senate serving as non-voting members.

Whereas: the Faculty Senate acknowledges the importance of open discussion and informed statements.

Be it Resolved: that the president of the Senate will introduce any visitors. Informing the president of plans to tape the meeting is requested as a matter of courtesy.

Be if further Resolved: that the Faculty Senate affirms that the intent of discussion resulting in a motion and a committee assignment transpiring during the February 13, 2002, meeting was an attempt to clarify Senate procedures and to allow time to investigate the Freedom of Information Act.

The motion was approved.

### ***Finance Committee***

The committee moved, and received a second, on the following statement.

Whereas: it is the sense of the Faculty Senate that providing decent annual salary increases and decent health coverage for existing employees and otherwise caring for our existing human resources should be of the highest budgetary priority.

Therefore: the Faculty Senate of Henderson State University hereby resolves that a moratorium on the creation of any new cabinet-level administrative positions be adopted, until such time as the University's current fiscal crisis abates and the University's current budget deficit is eliminated.

The motion was approved.

The committee moved, and received a second, that the senate make the following recommendation to the President for Implementation for academic year 2002-2003, in response to the current financial situation.

That the University complete step three of the three-year plan established in 1999-2000. This step will bring all faculty to 100% of the target salary set in Fall 1999. The cost of this adjustment is approximately \$15,000.

That the University give all faculty an across-the-board raise no less than the current cost of living index (2.9% as of November 16, 2001). Consideration should also be given to the fact that last year's cost of living increased 3.4%, yet HSU faculty received only a 2.6% across-the-board raise.

The motion was approved.

The committee moved, and received a second, that the senate endorse a campaign for diligent conservation of utilities, in response to the current financial situation.

Whereas, Henderson State University, owing to the current economic recession and declines in state revenues, is experiencing an annual budget deficit of approximately three-quarters of a million dollars, and

Whereas, the deficit necessitates that Henderson review seriously current and projected practices, and

Whereas, at this time, meeting the needs of our faculty, staff, and student body and serving our central mission while eliminating unnecessary expenditures are essential,

Therefore, the Faculty Senate of Henderson State University hereby resolves that the University endorse a campaign for diligent conservation of utilities, including but not limited to, having all HSU employees be committed to conserving utilities--by turning off lights, closing doors, making sure that water is not dripping, adjusting individual thermostats up and down for conservation during weekends, vacations, the 4-day summer class week—and to instilling similar commitment in our students; and asking the University to consider installing motion-sensitive lighting in buildings.

The motion was approved.

***Procedures Committee***

No report.

***Building and Grounds Committee***

No report.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

A motion was made, and received a second, that the Faculty Senate go on record as making it known that we are concerned about the financial situation being faced by the staff, with the implications of the impact of the change in insurance costs and the increases in co-payments.

The motion passed.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:49.