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Faculty Senate meeting minutes: 04/01/2004

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TO: FACULTY SENATE
FROM: CHARLES H. ELLIS, Jr., SECRETARY, FACULTY SENATE
SUBJECT: MINUTES, 2003-2004 FACULTY SENATE MEETING, 1 APRIL 2004

Present: (Professors) Alper, Alverson, Aroian, Bannister, Bansil, Barnes, Blank, Brookins, Bruns, Bursey, Ellis, Hym, Futrelle, Hunt, Khaw, Krishnamoorthy, Lowndes, Margotta, Morrison, Serafim, Shafai, Sherman, Sherwood, Vaughn, Wray
(Administrators) Abdelal, Finkelstein, Greene, Hill, Meservey, Onan, Soyster, Stellar, Weiss, Zoloth

Absent: (Professors) Hansberry, Howlett, Kruger, Metghalchi, Ondrechen, Peterfreund
(Administrators) None

Provost Abdelal re-convened the meeting, from recess, at 3:00 p.m.

Announcement. Professor Lowndes announced that he had been informed that the Trustees will meet in mid-April to at least consider tenure cases and will have a second meeting later in the spring where academic program proposals may also be considered. He assured the Senate and guests that any proposals held over from this meeting to next week would still be acted on in time for trustee approval. It is important to afford full discussion on these issues.

V. **Interdisciplinary Master of Science in Technological Entrepreneurship** The resolution read as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate approve the Interdisciplinary Master of Science in Technological Entrepreneurship as approved by the Graduate Council on 13 February 2004, to be offered in an appropriate academic unit.

On the floor was Professor Vaughn's amendment to delete "in an appropriate academic unit" after "to be offered" and to substitute "by the College of Business Administration".

Professor Futrelle noted that, historically, innovation has made our country what it is. With jobs going offshore, students want something involving cutting edge technology that will distinguish the University. He also thought that putting the program in an existing unit would be less likely to attract donors.

Professor Bruns pointed out that the School of Accounting in the College of Business has donors and is a precedent for successfully fostering a small program. She noted that 80% of the courses listed in the program are taught in Business and that she believed CBA to be the unit where the program would have the highest probability of success.

Professor Flymasked Dr. Friar if it mattered to him whether the school were placed in an existing unit or would stand alone. Dr. Friar responded that the program was designed to have people engage in development, which is not the case with current masters programs in CBA. He thought the interdisciplinary aspect would fall apart if faculty were primarily adjuncts.

The floor was yielded to Professor Meyer who emphasized that a multifunctional unit is the best organization for designing strategy in a multi-cultural curriculum. The dean would have to spend much time raising money. Students are already interested in entrepreneurship in such numbers that we do not have enough faculty to teach them. The real revenue generation is in the certificate program.

Vice Provost Hill cited the Human Services program, formerly part of Sociology, as an example of an interdisciplinary program in its own unit.

Professor Shafai expressed support for the proposal, citing his positive experience in counseling Business students.

Dean Finkelstein recalled his experience with Computer Science as a new college and expressed his support for the proposal on the basis of NU's willingness to fund new ventures and the proposal's likelihood of success.

Professor Ellis pointed out that Law, Policy, and Society is an example of a program that has succeeded, even though its faculty have primary appointments and duties in other units. He did not believe the \$1M gift enough to make the project succeed and would prefer to see an endowment gift sufficiently large for the income to cover the school's administrative costs. He would prefer that the program be housed in an existing unit.

Professor Blank liked the arguments in favor of an independent unit but did not see a clear exit strategy in the event the school did not succeed.

Provost Abdelal noted that the Senate would review the school after three years.

Dean Greene recalled that, when it was founded, the Criminal Justice program had been considered for inclusion in either Law or Arts and Sciences but had become a free-standing college, better positioned to compete in the marketplace.

Professor Bannister recommended going forward with the proposal for a given period of time, to allow people from different disciplines to come together to see how to bring products to market.

Dean Stellar noted that this would be an experiment proposed by a dedicated group of faculty and suggested that, if the dean did not make the fundraising goal, the program be shut down.

Dean Zoloth deemed this a good opportunity to build a marquee program that is different from those at other schools because we have a practice-oriented base.

Professor Alper expressed concern that other institutions with more money did not undertake this endeavor. Dr. Friar responded that it would depend on how one defined success, adding that other schools did not succeed in getting interdisciplinary full-time faculty to work together.

Professor Lowndes stated that the rationale to house the program in a new school seemed more focused on a public relations effort rather than a sound market potential. When Computer Science and Criminal Justice were created, these fields were already well-populated and based on a known market, but there is no clear market in this case. Even institutions that had raised significant funding of more than \$20M for technological entrepreneurship units, in contrast to our \$1-2 million, are not making that move. He asked why the proposal is limited to ten students a year if there is such a significant market. He was reluctant to support a program without some guarantee of income, but he would support the program in CBA. Moreover, this made sense since 80% of the courses were clearly based on CBA entrepreneurship courses, as Professor Bruns had pointed out. He was concerned that housing the program in a new academic unit will apparently absorb resources from the Academic Initiative, although this had never been discussed in the development of the Academic Initiative by the Funding Priorities Committee. In the Academic Initiative discussions, all the deans had made strong presentations of urgent needs for additional faculty and staff. Yet funds for the Academic Initiative would now be diverted to support the new school. Reflecting the apparent lack of market, the proposal's budget was marginal at best and would therefore likely compete with the needs of existing units. He contrasted the contribution margins of 50%, 60%, and 90% for the other new graduate program proposals on today's Senate agenda with the 2% in this proposal. To support the creation of a new school in tight budget times that was forecast to have virtually no profit and have a dean supervising two and a half full-time faculty and ten full-time students per year seemed inappropriate.

Professor Bansil called the question, and the motion was seconded.

Vote on cloture: PASSED, 31-2.

Professor Ellis reported that four Senators had requested paper ballots for all the resolutions on the agenda.

Vote to vote by secret ballot: PASSED, 20-15.

Vote on Professor Vaughn's amendment: FAILED, 12-23.

Vote on the resolution: PASSED, 29-6.

- VI. **Proposal to Establish a School of Technological Entrepreneurship.** Professor Meservey moved the following resolution, and the motion was seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate approve the proposal of 4 February 2004 to establish a School of Technological Entrepreneurship.

Provost Abdelal noted that the discussion on the previous resolution had also focused on arguments for and against establishing the school. He asked if there were any objection to moving directly to a vote.

There being no objection, the Senate turned to a vote, again by paper ballot.

Vote on the resolution: PASSED, 24-11.

- VII. **Interdisciplinary Master of Science in Information Assurance.** Professor Futrelle moved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate approve the Interdisciplinary Master of Science in Information Assurance proposed by the Colleges of Computer and Information Science and Criminal Justice as approved by the Graduate Council on 12 March 2004.

Professor Alper moved to adjourn, as time was almost up. The motion was seconded.

Vote on adjournment: PASSED, 19-13-1.

Adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles H. Ellis, Jr.
Secretary