Welcome

Shelley Broderick, Dean of the David A. Clarke School of Law and Chair of the Academic Senate opened the meeting by noting that a quorum had not yet been reached. She reminded Senators of the attendance policy and noted for the record excused absences. She then requested all Senators and Observers to introduce themselves.

The following Senators were PRESENT:

Abellera, Ben C. (Philosophy)  Jackson, Terri (OGC)
Broderick, Shelley (Law)       King Berry, Arlene (Education)
Cousin, Carolyn (Bio-Sciences) Musgrove, G. Derek (History)
Garrett, Willie Faye           Pearson, Clarence (Eng/Archt/Aero)
Glanville, Cheryl (Student Rep.) Pettie, Matthew (English)
Haniff, William (Mass Media & Perf Arts) Petty, Rachel (CAS)
Harris, Margaret               Rode, Meredith (Mass Media & Perf Arts)
Inmon, Katie (LRD)

Excused Absence:

Farmer, Shurron (Math)         Wagdy, Mahmoud (Engineering)
Baxter, Grae (Provost)         Seyoum, Hailemichael (Chem/Phys)

Observers:

Anderson, Melanie              Harvey, Barbara S.          Richards, Delia
Bolig, Rosemary                Howard, Virginia            Soogina, Daniel
Brown-Mangum, Brenda           Krauthomer, Helene          Scott, Merwyn L.
Green-Ridley, Gloria           Peters, Doris                Walton, Iena
Hamilton, Marylin              Racine, Marie M.B.

Minutes

S. Broderick sought and received approval of the February 24, 2009 Meeting minutes as corrected/revised.

Order of Business

Chair Broderick called the body to order and since a quorum had not been reached, instructed the body to proceed with discussion. S. Broderick further advised that action items would carry over to the next meeting. S. Broderick reminded the body that (i) the meeting was a Special Meeting called primarily to address unfinished business concerning the education department and (ii) that the Interim Senate did not have any proposals concerning the education department before it.
Discussion

W.F. Garrett sought clarification as to the party responsible for "coming up with a proposal for the education department."
R. Petty, at the request of the Chair, responded that while departments had submitted draft plans none of the draft plans addressed the Center. President Sessoms according to Dean Petty has asked an Advisory Group to address issues concerning the Center, but he has not received a response.
W. Hanff sought clarification about the President's plan: "how much is this about change in courses, which would not require IAS review and how much is this about program change."
R. Petty has asked that education programs be rated by the Office of the Provost and has asked the education department to respond.
A. King-Berry stated that she had confirmed with the Office of the Registrar that students indicating a desire to major in education were "frozen" or "put on hold."
D. Musgrove sought (i) a better way to communicate "regularly" with the President; (ii) a definitive answer from the Registrar about admitting majors and (iii) for the IAS to provide input. D. Musgrove noted that an email sent to the President from M. Rode requesting more communication had received a positive response.
M. Rode confirmed her email to Dr. Sessoms requesting specific information; constant updates and status on plans for the University. She stated that Dr. Sessoms "completely agreed on the communication issue."
B. Brown stated her concerns about eliminating education at the baccalaureate level.
A. King-Berry stated that (i) the numbers of majors graduating from the department was incorrect and (ii) she has asked the Provost (G. Baxter) and the Dean of the College (R. Petty) for studies supporting their position.
V. Howard wanted to know: (i) what criteria were used to rate education programs; (ii) what support would be given to improve the graduation rate and the PRAXIS pass rate; (iii) about the decision-making process.
V. Howard added that she had researched eight universities and colleges comparable to UDC (including Bowie) and found similar difficulties amongst student populations in passing the PRAXIS.
G. Green-Ridley suggested that it would be "prudent to carve out an area in the center to include undergraduate education in the area of special education and early childhood."
R. Bolig looked at different configurations of centers as freestanding or "connected" with a school or college.
S. Broderick proposed writing a letter from the IAS to the President and the Provost seeking timely notice of program changes, clarity on plans concerns about the overall process, and the opportunity for the IAS to be heard.
Tuition
  o Discussion
D. Musgrove said that he was willing to defer discussion on Tuition increase until next meeting.

New Business

Honorary Degrees
  o Discussion
M. Rode explained to IAS that the President had been approached by a graduate from Federal City College who requested the President's consideration in honoring ninety-three year old artist, Edward Loper. The artist would produce a retrospective exhibit and could be available for master classes at the University. C. Pearson explained the "normal process" for nominations to be submitted from anyone in the University community to the University Honorary Degree Committee, which meets in the Fall. Nominations approved by the Board of Trustees are forwarded to the Provost and then to the President. When the Committee is not in session, nominations are forwarded to the provost. C. Pearson further opined and S. Broderick agreed that a recommendation from the IAS on Mr. Loper was unnecessary.

Committee Reports – No Committee Reports

Adjournment
The March 3, 2009 Special Meeting of the IAS was adjourned upon proper motion made, seconded, and approved at 3:34 pm.

Meeting Materials

- Meeting Notice
- Agenda
- Minutes of the February 24, 2009 Meeting