

# ***MEMORANDUM***

**TO:** Members of the Faculty Senate  
**FROM:** Beheruz N. Sethna, President  
**RE:** Response to Senate Actions  
**DATE:** February 5, 2010

Following is my response to the actions of the Faculty Senate as represented in the minutes of the meeting of June 19, 2009, which were approved at the Faculty Senate meeting on July 24, 2009. All program approvals are made contingent upon the department's commitment to staff the changes out of existing internal funds.

## **Committee Reports:**

### Unfinished Business:

Motion to approve the modifications (changes) to the Undergraduate Catalog as recommended by the Academic Policies and Procedures Committee and specified in Addendum IV (attached to the agenda) passed as recorded in Addendum I.B (attached to the minutes).

I accept this motion.

Motion to approve the amendments (changes) to the Policies and Procedures Manual recommended by the Ad-Hoc Rules Committee as specified in Addendum III (attached to the agenda) passed with minor editorial changes as recorded in Addendum I.A (attached to the minutes).

This process has been a long road, and so I am particularly pleased to accept this motion – with great thanks to all those who have worked so long and hard to bring it to reality, as we have discussed multiple times during Faculty Senate meetings, these changes are accepted with the understandings mentioned on the following page, which have been discussed and clarified during previous meetings.

Article IV, Section 2, on the appointment of ad hoc committees:

- a. The assignment of Senators to these ad hoc committees will consider the input of Senators and administrators who are responsible for the workload of the faculty members under consideration.
- b. There is nothing in these changes that preclude standing committees of the Faculty Senate from empowering their own *ad hoc* committees.
- c. There is nothing in these changes that preclude other bodies and personnel at UWG from appointing *ad hoc* committees.

Article IV, Section 2, regarding the budget committee:

- a. First, I share with colleagues what I had originally stated to Mr. Chris Huff and Dr. Chris Aanstoos: “I look forward to greater involvement of faculty and other colleagues and truly believe it will make the process better. ... I am delighted to work with the Faculty Senate to create (probably through an iterative process, and some trial and error) a way in which the budget process includes colleagues at early stages of the process. It is only fair to point out that our ability to present the priorities or implement them are often limited.” To make this process better, we need a shared understanding of the following.
- b. The necessity to be able to be nimble and act fast (unfortunately, it is often react) to urgent demands from the USG and State. Sometimes, this is measured in hours and unfortunately leads to suspending other planned activities or leaving one of these to others.
- c. The role of the SPA. The Chancellor’s approach prevails – the one whose job is on the line (Department Chairs, Deans, VPs, Department Heads and Directors) have to make the final decision, with input from others. Thus, the budget committee serves a very important advisory role.
- d. Shared responsibility to provide and acquire the necessary background information.
- e. Responsibility of members of the committee to provide advice from a University perspective rather than from an individual or departmental or other parochial one.

Updates and Implementation:

1. Although the process of final approval of these changes by the General Faculty is still not complete, I asked that we begin implementation of the Budget Committee immediately, because this is a tough budget year and the greater the input the better. That recommendation was accepted by the Senate leadership, and the (interim) Budget Committee was appointed. They are functioning as if the word “interim” did not exist.
2. As of the date of signing of this memorandum, this Budget Committee under the leadership of Dr. David Boldt, has already met several times and has provided excellent input and advice, which has already resulted in positive actions. In my opinion, the process is working very well.