TO: Faculty Senate  
FROM: Mary Jo Ondrechen, Secretary, Faculty Senate  
SUBJECT: Minutes, 12 February 2014

Present: (Professors) Basagni, Burke, Carrier, Cokely, Crittenden, Daynard, De Ritis, Devlin, Fitzgerald, Fountain, Fox, Gouldstone, King, Kruger, Lee, Lefkovitz, Makriyannis, Ondrechen, Parekh, Piret, Rabrenovic, Rappaport, Stepanyants, Strasser, Strauss  
(Administrators) Aubry, Costa, Courtney, Director, Finkelstein, Fulmer, Gibson, Loeffelholz, Poiger, Ronkin

Absent: Professors Craig, Metghalchi, Nelson, Noubir, Yang

The Senate convened at 11:48 AM

I. Professor Daynard reported that SAC had met twice since the last Senate meetings.

SAC has been asked to convene a chair search committee for the Department of History. An election is scheduled.

Item number six on today's agenda, the proposed revision of the Faculty Senate Bylaws, must be distributed twice to the Senate and the faculty prior to the vote. The proposal includes removing the Standing Committees, with exception of SAC, to a separate document. University policies not in Faculty Handbook are binding on the University. Separating some documents negates the need for Board of Trustees approval; this allows the Senate to create or alter Standing Committees as needed.

The reason for a quasi-committee-of-the-whole is to maintain the present structure of the Senate. However, there will be no motion on the floor and therefore no motions can be made. No minutes are taken.

Welcome to all who have attended from outside the Senate. Please ask a Senator to yield the floor if you wish to be recognized.

II. Provost Director reported that the groundbreaking ceremony for the interdisciplinary science and engineering building is scheduled on 2/21 at 11:00 AM; Boston's mayor will attend.

III. Questions and discussion

Professor Strauss noted the continuation of smoking at the Library in the evening. Dean Fulmer responded that the website contains information on who to call and how to proceed. Much progress has been realized and students are involved.
Provost Director reported that the policy for student access to labs will be presented to the Board of Trustees later today.

Professor Fox suggested that, due to so many snow storms and so many classes cancelled, the University should consider schedule changes, such as the Fridays that became Mondays, as was implemented some time ago under similar circumstances. Vice Provost Loeffelholz will follow up.

Professor Kruger noted that policies omitted from the Faculty Handbook but approved by the Senate and administration include some very important matters. One is compensation for full-time faculty teaching summer courses; the current Faculty handbook says 1/6 of base salary but later legislation passed indicates that the rate is to be determined by individual colleges appropriate to circumstances. This presents a colossal disconnect and it seems easy to replace paragraphs. Another is Workload, where the current Faculty Handbook wording talks about administration’s role but is silent on faculty roles and responses. This is a policy matter and it should be clear that faculty have a role in this matter. Another area is the Administrator Evaluation Oversight Committee and its policies. The Handbook is silent on the role of the faculty. Two court cases in Massachusetts refer to a Faculty Handbook and in both cases the judge acknowledged that Handbook policies are binding. What is in the Handbook does matter and Professor Kruger urged SAC to reconsider as in some instances the Handbook is misleading.

Professor Daynard agreed that in instances where there are disagreements the Handbook should be updated. However, the Senate cannot force the Board of Trustees to make changes. The summer compensation matter could lead to successful arbitration claims. SAC will continue to discuss this with the Provost and the senior leadership team. In the meantime, Professor Daynard discouraged use of the term “supposed policies” as they are real and are binding. Provost Director also expressed that ambiguities and contradictions need to be addressed.

Professor Kruger wanted to continue speaking on these matters but was not permitted by the Senate Chair to do so; the full agenda and time limits were cited.

IV. Professor Cokely read the following and it was seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED That the University accept revisions to the Master of Science in Global Studies and International Affairs and a concurrent name change to the Master of Science in Global Studies and International Relations in the College of Professional Studies as approved by the Graduate Council on 22 January 2014 (6-0-0).

Dean Poiger asked why the Senate is voting about revisions since they were already approved by the Graduate Council and proposed a friendly amendment to change to motion to focus on the name change only. This was accepted by the maker of the motion and the seconder.

As amended, the motion reads:

BE IT RESOLVED That the University change the name of the Master of Science in Global Studies and International Affairs to the
Master of Science in Global Studies and International Relations in the College of Professional Studies as approved by the Graduate Council on 22 January 2014 (6-0-0).

VOTE to change the program name: PASSED, 33-0-1.

V. Vice Provost Loeffelholz read the following and it was seconded by Professor Ondrechen.

BE IT RESOLVED That the University adopt the revised Faculty Conduct of Class document as proposed by the Office of the Provost.

The Vice Provost reported that the revision acknowledges new technology in teaching and in University communications. It also acknowledges multiple campuses. It is an attempt to reduce operational detail and focus on core matters.

Professor Fox asked whether faculty should not also communicate to students via Blackboard should classes be cancelled rather than merely to the chair. Vice Provost Loeffelholz noted that the policy is crafted to include all exigencies but that communication with the chair is sufficient.

Professor Ondrechen asked whether faculty are not always supposed to inform the Registrar's Office and the Vice Provost responded that the new policy allows faculty to make one call only to the Chair.

VOTE to accept the revised Faculty Conduct of Class document: PASSED, 34-0-0.

VI. Professor Strasser read the following and Professor Ondrechen seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate accept proposed amendments to the Graduate Council Bylaws as approved by the Graduate Council and the Senate Agenda Committee.

Professor Kruger noted that page 3 includes a repeated sentence and wondered if something was inadvertently omitted. Professor Daynard suggested that it appears to be a typographical error and proposed removing the text from the first paragraph. Professor Kruger urged that someone be sure there is nothing omitted before making the change.

Professor Ondrechen proposed a friendly amendment to section II.C.3. to remove wording that the Graduate Council may approve their own Bylaws as this is contrary to any other Senate committee. Professor Strasser accepted and there were no objections. Section II.C.3. now reads:

Amendments to the Bylaws
Amendments to the Graduate Council Bylaws will be circulated at least one week before the meeting of the Graduate Council for comment. Amendments to the bylaws are, subsequently, sent to the Faculty Senate for review and approval.

VOTE to amend the Graduate Council Bylaws as noted: PASSED, 34-0-0.
VII. The Senate entered a quasi-committee-of-the-whole discussion. Professor Daynard explained an ad hoc committee on full-time non-tenure-track faculty had worked on a report and recommendations which everyone has received. SAC’s response was to propose amendments to Senate Bylaws. Because the method for amending bylaws includes a vote of the faculty, housekeeping amendments were also included in order to submit the document once. There were lengthy discussions with the Provost and with General Counsel’s office.

Discussion focused primarily on the vulnerability of non-tenure-track faculty, the right to serve on the Senate, and collective bargaining rights.

The Senate adjourned at 1:24 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Ondrechen, Secretary
Faculty Senate