

PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FACULTY ASSEMBLY
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2006
RIEKE SCIENCE CENTER — LERAAS LECTURE HALL**

Call to Order. Charles A. Bergman, Chair of the Faculty, called the regular February meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. Ninety-two members of the faculty signed the attendance sheet.

Opening Prayer. The Reverend Dennis G. Sepper, University Pastor, offered the opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of December 9, 2005. The minutes were approved as submitted.

President's Report. President Loren J. Anderson responded to a question about the two most important consequences of a downturn in enrollment in the next five years, and the two most important resources the university has to respond to those consequences. The President said a downturn in the economy could affect both enrollment and giving, but that the common wisdom is that enrollment is counter-cyclical to the general economy. Reserve funds and conservative budgeting, as well as a prompt response, are the resources at hand in such circumstances. The President said he was more concerned about what is happening in Washington, D.C., with respect to the federal budget and student loans, than about the economy in general, since this could mean higher interest rates for students and parents. The president said PLU has 3,426 students enrolled today (40-50 more than expected a few weeks ago), and this year's Presidential scholarship applications were up to 600 (from 400 a year ago), with 190 applicants and their family members present this weekend for interviews.

Announcements and Communications:

1. Elizabeth E. Brusco, Faculty Representative to the Board of Regents, reported on the January 20-21 meeting of the Board of Regents. Highlights were discussions of tuition, faculty salaries (including compression), student-faculty ratios, graduate programs, and the impact of the University of Washington-Tacoma.
 2. Provost James L. Pence announced the May 4-6 Morken Center dedication activities. Information will soon be sent to faculty. Highlights will include a special event for donors, and a visit and speech by Robert Reich, former U.S. Secretary of Labor, on May 5.
 3. Neal W. Sobania, Executive Director of the Wang Center, thanked those involved in J-terms abroad, and announced that active recruiting is underway for gateway programs in Chengdu (China) (including a Tibet module), Oaxaca (Mexico), Hedmark (Norway), and Trinidad and Tobago, that the spring fair will be held on Mar. 2 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., that Wang research grant applications are due Feb. 24, and that meetings on the proposal for a global education committee will be held on Feb. 15 from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. and on Feb. 16 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.
 4. Norris A. Peterson, Economics, announced that plans for the general education review for the spring semester aim to continue the work in building consensus and community, as well as laying a foundation of research. To that end, the Ad Hoc Steering Group is developing a set of descriptors to frame next year's work, that will be a focus of focus of discussion this spring. Similarly, a survey of student opinion of the GURs is being developed. Unfinished Business.
1. Proposed amendment to the Bylaws to the Faculty Constitution, adding faculty parliamentarian and adding leadership duties to the Faculty Chair. This proposed amendment to the Bylaws to the Faculty Constitution offered by the Governance Committee at the November 11, 2005, revising Article IV, § 2 (a) (1) of the Bylaws to the Faculty Constitution, Faculty Officers, (*Faculty Handbook*, 6th ed. [2003], p. 33) as follows

(changes indicated by underlining), was approved in a final vote: “a) Chair of the Faculty 1) The chair of the faculty shall perform the following duties: a. To call and preside at meetings of the Faculty Assembly. b. To appoint a member of the Faculty Assembly to serve as Parliamentarian for a term concurrent with that of the chair. The appointee shall retain voice and voting privileges in the Faculty Assembly. c. To call and preside at meetings, coordinate the agenda, and direct the work of the Faculty Executive Committee. d. To represent the faculty to the Board of Regents. e. To represent the faculty to the administration, including but not limited to monthly meetings with the officers of the university. f. To provide leadership to promote the mission of the university.”

New Business:

1. Resolution to replace Christine Hansvick from service on the Educational Policies Committee. Norris A. Peterson, Chair of the Governance Committee, moved “that the Faculty Assembly releases Christine Hansvick from service on the Educational Policies Committee, effective immediately.” Discussion. Motion passed. The Chair of Governance presented a slate of candidates for a special election to fill the vacancy: E. Wayne Carp, History, and Mark A. Reiman, Economics. Teru Toyokawa, Psychology, was nominated from the floor by Wendelyn J. Shore, Psychology. The special election will be conducted Feb. 20-24.
2. Resolution for an informal discussion on general education. Patricia O’Connell Killen, Religion, Ad Hoc Steering Group on General Education, moved “That the Faculty hold an Informal Discussion, lasting no more than twenty-five minutes, concerning the General Education survey results [<http://www.plu.edu/~gened>] of the PLU faculty.” Motion passed. Twenty-five minutes of discussion ensued, with a presentation of data by Fern H. Zabriskie, Business. Stressing the preliminary nature of any interpretation of the survey results, the discussion focused on those matters around which there is significant agreement (e.g., the importance of general education for students, science, and writing, among others), as well as identifying areas where the range of opinion is more widespread (e.g., Core I and Core II).
3. Resolution on policy for adding courses at the beginning of academic terms. Keith Cooper, Philosophy, Chair of the Educational Policies Committee, moved “that the Faculty Assembly approve a change in policy regarding the deadline for adding courses at the beginning of academic terms without the instructor’s signature as specified in column (C) of Attachment B [to the agenda]. At the beginning of the fall and spring semesters, the deadline to add a course without the instructor’s signature is the fifth business day of the semester; the deadline to add a course without the instructor’s signature for other academic terms is approximately half the time allowed for dropping a course without the instructor’s signature.” Discussion. Motion passed.

The Chair of the Faculty adjourned the meeting at 5:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark K. Jensen
Secretary of the Faculty