

Minutes of the Emory University Senate
January 25, 1994 - 3:15 PM
Room 400 Administration Building

Members and guests recorded as present:

Mike Berry	Jim Gouinlock	Jack Millgard
Todd Borow	Barbara Greene-Plauth	Pat Marsteller
Irene Browne	Gary Hauk	Judy R. Moore
Jason Budde	Elizabeth Hornor	Marie Nitschke
Paula Cattanach	Harriet King	Helen O'Shea
Andrew Cousins	Frank Lechner	Alisa Porter
Jonathan Davidoff	Clark Lemons	Luther Smith
Michele Duncan	Lanny Liebeskind	Dan Treadaway
Susan Frost	Richard Letz	W. Dean Wilcox
Anupam Goel	Mary Anne Lindskog	

Frank Lechner, President of the Senate, called the meeting to order. After the minutes of the November meeting were approved, Marie Nitschke, Secretary of the Senate, reported that the current records of the Senate were now available electronically for the Emory community and beyond on the Emory Gopher. These records include the current roster, calendar, agenda, by-laws, and minutes of both the Faculty Council and the Senate. Marisa Johnson, Client Services Coordinator in the Information and Technology Division, explained to Senate members about the ways of connecting to the Emory Gopher. She also encouraged Senate members to contact her if they have other information that they would like to have entered in the Gopher.

Continuing the Senate's on-going examination of Emory's intellectual environment, Dr. Lechner invited discussion about diversity in practice at Emory with emphasis on educational and intellectual concerns. The question of how to incorporate diversity into the curriculum of the hard sciences led to a discussion of the changing demographic picture at universities, and the ways that this may transform the practice of education overall. Senate members and guests commented on the need for a more welcoming environment for minorities at Emory, with continued emphasis on recruiting diverse populations of both students and faculty, and also on bringing in more guests from a variety of backgrounds who might serve as role models. Students also mentioned the need for increased social interaction between students of different regional, racial, and religious backgrounds, as well as the desirability of greater cross-cultural attendance at minority sponsored student programs. The view was expressed that this increased contact would help students learn not only about their differences, but also about their similarities.

Regarding the actual content of the curriculum, it was noted that sometimes attention to minorities was tacked on as appendix to course contents, or ignored altogether. Some courses such as "Women in Science" were taught as Liberal Studies courses because their content was not considered scientific enough for the science departments. Some observed

that while racial and gender studies programs are more accepted now than in the past, they are still somewhat "ghetto-ized" within the University.

Debate which followed raised questions about whether the emphasis on diversity improved the educational experience. Some stated that academic excellence was best served by being color blind and gender blind, and worried that focusing on diversity increased hostilities. Others maintained that a diverse faculty and student body, and an openness to new voices enhanced the pursuit of truth and knowledge.

There was general agreement that dealing with diversity can be disorienting and intimidating. The issues are not always approached rationally because individuals bring a lot of emotional involvement to the discussion, and this may mean that issues are not addressed, or addressed only in response to protests.

It was suggested that, as a next step, models for dealing with diversity, such as Religion Professor Thee Smith's "Across the Curriculum," should be given more attention here at Emory.

Under new business, Michael McQuaide, Chair of the Honorary Degrees Committee, submitted names of candidates for honorary degrees to the Senate. By unanimous consent, the Senate agreed to vote on the nominations at this time rather than waiting until the next Senate meeting, and then a list of names was approved for forwarding on to the Board of Trustees.

Finally, Susan Frost, Director of Institutional Planning and Research, announced that Ernest Boyer from the Carnegie Foundation and Jonathan Cole from Columbia University would lead a symposium in April focusing on Emory in the twenty-first century.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.