

## **I. Welcome**

Dean Chikwem welcomed all present, announced that there is a lot to do and then introduced President Nelson.

## **II. Address by the President**

President Nelson started by saying that Grim Hall cannot be renovated until the other two (...) have been.

There is a plan, by which to move forward to excellence, which is what he is trying to accomplish here at LU. Only initially planned to stay on for 4 years. Right now the biggest objective is ...

Presentation already given to the Board of Trustees. Since you are all going to be around for a long time, I am hoping that you have fervor, commitment to move forward.

A science complex is put together with faculty in mind in terms of what they do, what funds they bring in and so forth.

Even when a new administration comes in, the difference is going to be made by the faculty.

There are always going to be differences among people; administration and faculty that is natural. But the significant thing is that we move forward.

Every enterprise and every organization has to have a focal point.

Some of the funds already secured for the centers of excellence.

Facilities in Philadelphia (across from the train station) renovated.

\$118 million worth of new facilities.

\$23 million for new Dorm when done.

Something specific: Katrina effects reduced new Science Building to 100, 000 sq. ft.

All due to increased costs of materials. E.g. cost of steel went up by \$2 million.

The president talked more about the Science Building particulars:

- ✓ We have good architects.
- ✓ President succeeded in convincing the State to put in a request in budget for \$4.5 million for movable furniture (furniture and equipment?).
- ✓ President wants to put state-of-the-art-equipment in building, and need ideas about equipment.
- ✓ If the \$4.5 million not secured, that's where the faculty comes in to secure external funds to acquire equipment, funds for running and maintaining the building/facility.
- ✓ Wright Hall will become a classroom building.
- ✓ President then handed out posters of new building.
- ✓ The Governor has put in a request for \$15 million for renovation – hopefully to be used for landscaping as well.

✓ The new facility is going to present some challenges...science students may be isolated from the rest of campus

Comments from Faculty:

Professor Barimani: General consensus was that the building is acceptable but for office space?

President: Even though number of offices has been reduced, some offices are large enough to be divided into two in the future.

Dean Chikwem: Is it possible once the residential buildings are done, to put the science together in one building?

President Nelson: Do you really want that? You'll find that the science students will cluster together in new facility, that's possible. The biggest issue is where to put the male and female students? We should think about that.

President Nelson departs.

Dean Chikwem: Today has the highest attendance we've had at our school meetings. Because we're coming to the end of the semester, we may have at most (?) two meetings. When he sends out emails, some people do not respond. That will be duly noted in the future.

Dean Chikwem announced that this coming Saturday he is taking 14 students to Hershey (?) to hear how other students got into medical school. A week after that, he will go to Philadelphia to talk to high school students about medical schools.

### **III. Minutes of Meeting Held January 17, 2006**

Dean Chikwem announced that minutes are out and are there any corrections?

Professor Huq: His name spelled wrong on page 2.

Dean appealed to Dr. Haimbodi to take note of that.

Minutes approved/adopted.

### **IV. Academic Advising (Dr. Langley)**

Dr. Langley: There seems to be a breakdown in academic advising. He has had students in his general chemistry class who shouldn't be in the class because of the lack of requirements/prerequisites.

As we are getting ready for Fall enrolment, we should really make sure how we allow students in different classes that have specific requirements. For example one of the new general chemistry course requirements for next semester is Math 111.

Dr. Huq: The problem is that most of the academic advisors are faculty members but they do not pay attention to those requirements.

Dr. Langley: Students would register for the 300 level general chemistry but who have not passed the 100 level course(s). That should not happen.

Dr. Yamauchi: The President said that the new registration system will be running soon, and should take care of those problems.

Dr. Langley: We are going to be registering students this Spring...

Dr. Safford: We need to stipulate to students that the prerequisite are A, B and you cannot be in this class without those requirements.

Dean: I guess what we need to do is ... Sometimes students are no aware that if you get a D in a subject which is your major, you should repeat that course before you move on to the next class.

Dr. Shabazz: It seems to me that the advisor for the student should catch these things and safe the students from that pain. The advisors are not adequately advising...

Dr. Treisner: One problem is pre-registering. Unless we a system in place that filters students at pre-registration, these problems will continue.

Dean Chikwem: There is also a problem of interchangeable classes.

For now, lets keep our eyes open and tell the registrar or me to fiddle with the system and correct the problems.

Dr. Langley: The other issue, someone from the University of Illinois would like to come and talk to students about getting into their medical school.

Dean: Why don't we do it this way. We could have them come during the science conference in March. A forum for current students to hear from other students who have succeeded. Students who have been on study abroad... e.g. a student who went to Russia would talk about his experience and differences in educational system(s)

#### **V. Submission from Math Department (not on original Agenda?)**

Dean Chikwem announced that we have been moving to Math 111 as a requirement for most of the students. The potential for many students failing is very high, so I've asked the Math department to come up with an alternative course requirement for non-Math majors.

Dr. Treisner: Board wanted students to have exposure to statistics...

Dr. Safford: Board approved and accepted curriculum structure without the course requirement.

Dr. Treisner: Dr. Treisner explained the content and motivation of the new course – Math 106. The mew course is still going to be higher than 104, the current non-Math majors math requirement.

Dr. Shabazz: I think everybody here knows my feelings about the proliferation of watered down Math courses. About 7 years ago, we put into curriculum Math 104 which has as part of its content Math finance, Algebra to life applications...

The current Math 104 course is a deliberately dumbed down course. We should not allow any student to graduate from LU with substandard Math courses.

Dr. Shabazz then gave an example of a student who was put into a lower level Math course and subsequently saved by his/her teacher and restored to the proper high level course and went on to succeed.

Dr. Yamauchi: Last week this course was presented at our department meeting. After the meeting I realized that the content of the course is the same as Finite and Stats courses.

Dr. Pathak: To have two courses with the same content seems unlikely.

Dean: At the present time, the core curricula for different departments is being redone...In social science, most departments also require and define their math needs. For the Board, they recognize that Math is important. In 2006, the students coming in have SATs of 800. The high schools have not prepared students to do Math. Because of this, if we prescribe to students courses higher than 105 for non-Math majors, most of them will fail.

Dr. Shabazz: What Dr. Yamauchi said about Finite Math is true. It has most of the content proposed for the new course. I will support all of the students who are not Math majors to take Math107.

Dr. Nagase: We have as a department already approved this course.

Dr. Williams: What if we decide as a school on a minimum requirement, if a department opts for another higher course that's fine.

Dr. Treisner: The Math dept. is not setting standards for other departments. We are just setting alternatives. Anything above Math 104 will satisfy the math requirement.

Dr. Yamauchi: With the real world in mind, the title of this course will put our students at a disadvantage.

Dr. Treisner: Most schools are offering courses like this and I would like to mention that Dr. Yamauchi voted to adopt this course.

Dr. Shabazz: A course like the one we are discussing is a course designed primarily for marginalized students.

Dr. Treisner: Designed for English majors.

Dr. Shabazz: Let me finish...even at most prestigious Universities, these courses are set there for Black, Hispanic and poor White students.

Dr. Shabazz then gave an example of a woman who succeeded in Math and now is a professor at American University in DC.

Dean Chikwem: If you do not like the course, then I suggest you recommend another one.

Dean asked for the vote: 11 YES, 3 NO, 3 Abstentions.

## **VI. Student Conduct in the Classroom (Dr. Haimbodi)**

Dr. Haimbodi: Wanted to know what can be done about students who engage in unbecoming behavior in class.

Dr. Treisner: The Handbook outlines the disciplinary actions that can be taken.

Dr. Haimbodi: I am aware of the Handbook rules but I was wondering more on a pedagogical level, how one should deal with such students.

Dean: Once I have established that the students abide by the rules of the class they have to or they leave the class. The rules of the classroom are set the first day of class. Once the rules are established, don't get to appoint of exchanging words with the student.

Dr. Treisner: As you said, the rules are set. I rarely have problems in the classroom.

Dr. Pathak: Strictness with students does not work; I don't have problems with the students.

Dean: Things will improve with time.

## **VII. Announcements**

✓ Dean: Dr. Henderson was involved in an accident, not coming back this semester.

✓ Dr. Royer: He is not home now, but will welcome some calls.

Meeting adjourned.