

Senate Summary

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Three proposals approved

Senate approves change to maximum non-matriculated credit hours to a graduate degree

The Academic Senate Monday voted unanimously to approve a revision in the number of credit hours a non-matriculated student can apply toward a graduate degree from eight semester hours to nine. The proposal from the Graduate Council stemmed from the change from quarters to semesters in that most semester classes are three hours making a total of nine hours more appropriate. Applying more than the maximum of nine semester hours of non-matriculated work to a graduate degree will require approval of the dean of the Graduate School. The proposal must now be approved by the Board of Trustees before becoming University policy.

Student-driven proposal to extend drop period is debated, approved

Although senators and students agreed a proposed policy change extending the drop period from seven to 10 calendar days from the beginning of the semester did not address all potential eventualities, the Academic Senate Monday passed the proposal. Students speaking at the Senate meeting said one of the primary issues driving the proposal was the possibility under the current system that a student might be able to attend only one class session of a once-a-week class before being required to drop the class. Several senators countered that the proposal would inhibit students' ability to add a class. The proposal also changes the add deadline from the second Friday of the semester to the 14th calendar day.

Beginning on the 11th day after the beginning of the semester and continuing through the Friday of the first full week beyond midpoint of the semester, students

Light rail: Machen believes a decision on the much publicized light rail spur connecting the University with the downtown north-south TRAX lines will come this week, and said the decision hinges on getting a critical swing vote. "You have to be encouraged by the confluence of events in the last week or so," the President said, mentioning specifically two supporting editorials in *The Salt Lake Tribune* and *Deseret News* and the opening of light rail this week. "We should know by the end of this week whether it's got a life or not. We've been working behind the scenes for about a

month to try to resurrect the project and it boils down to getting a City Councilperson to change their vote."

Machen, who said approval is needed by the end of the calendar year in order to finish construction in time for the 2002 Olympics, encouraged senators to send e-mails in support of a light rail connection to City Council members.

Senate approves revisions to policy regarding graduate credit for undergraduate students

The Senate voted unanimously Monday to revise a policy regarding graduate credit for undergraduate students. The following changes to the policy were passed: credit used in a graduate degree may not also be used toward an undergraduate degree; graduate credit is limited to six hours or two courses; and retroactive credit can be granted only if a B or higher was earned, and if the course was taken no more than three years prior to petition. The revised policy eliminates the required GPA of 3.0 or higher, mandatory senior standing and advanced petition, which is now "encouraged." The proposal will now go before the Board of Trustees for approval.

Report from Administration

President Machen addresses light rail, Rothermich's retirement and HR consolidation

President Bernie Machen touched on three areas during his portion of the Administration Report at Monday's meeting of the Academic Senate: light rail, the re-distribution of duties of retiring Arnold "Oz" Rothermich and the consolidation of human resources.

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Rothermich's duties: After serving as secretary of the school's Board of Trustees for 14 years, Arnold "Oz" Rothermich will retire in January. Machen told the senators he will

distribute the duties within his office. Machen's special assistant and adjunct political science professor Mike Benson will take on the role of Board of Trustees secretary. "The other functions will be distributed among the staff in my office so there will be no search.

"We would like to publicly acknowledge the service that Oz has given to the University . . . he will be missed," the President said. "Unfortunately we can't afford to fill his position in the way it has been staffed in the past. I do think, however, that most of the important functions can be covered within the existing structure."

Human resources: Machen said the University is in the initial stages of a human resources consolidation under the direction of Interim Vice President for Human Resources Kristine Strachan. The President expects an ongoing national search to yield an HR vice president next summer. "Without creating any new functions we find that through Kristine's efforts we can begin to identify the various HR pieces – the medical school, the hospital and on this campus – and we've begun to talk about bringing those functions together. I think what we're going to do is try to see how much coordination we can get from the various human resources functions prior to the hiring of a new vice president."

Vice President for Health Sciences outlines short- and long-term goals

Providing the Administration Report for Monday's meeting of the Academic Senate, Senior Vice President for Health Sciences and Medical School Dean Lorris Betz outlined his short- and long-term goals for, as well as problems facing, the University of Utah Health Sciences Center (UUHSC). Betz said he has accomplished much of the one-year goals he established upon accepting the position in June, including: developing a consensus regarding UUHSC's mission, vision, values and goals; identifying facility needs and a funding plan; and defining an administrative structure. A critical component to Betz's plan for UUHSC is the implementation of mission-based management, an undertaking he expects to take two to three years. Key to mission-based management, according to Betz, are the following issues: re-balancing missions; supporting unity at UUHSC; ensuring excellent stewardship of resources; improving and standardizing reporting systems; and the development of future faculty leaders.

"Academic medical centers, because of the demands of the clinical work, are always at risk of

losing sight of their academic mission," Betz said. "This is a way of bringing that academic mission back into focus, to re-emphasize research and education, to identify support for education . . . and then to distribute funds in relation to education."

After listing opportunities such as national recognition, component collaboration, community support and a high demand for services, Betz listed challenges facing UUHSC. He sees a growing dependence on "soft dollars" to support academic problems, a diminishing reimbursement for clinical services, a migration of education to outpatient settings, and an erosion of government support for graduate medical education. A decline in veterans and a resulting shrinkage of educational opportunities at the Veteran's Administration Hospital are of concern and part of the reason for establishing the University of Utah HealthNetwork.

Betz said UUHSC also faces an imminent facility problem as 75 percent of buildings, most of which are beyond capacity, are more than 20 years old. Betz is "very interested" in maintaining unity between the Health Sciences campus and main campus.

Unlike similar organizations in other states that are going into financial deficits, Betz said, "There's really a lot of opportunities to look into the future and see that at least our clinical services are not only going to be required but desired for some time into the future . . . We're bursting at the seams in terms of the occupancy of our hospital and most of our clinics."

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