A Glimpse of Columbia History . . .

SENATE COLUMN

Senate Approves Doctorates in Nursing Practices

BY THOMAS MATHEWSON

At a two-hour meeting on Dec. 12, the University Senate approved three new degree programs and heard another report on Manhattanville, but did not have the super-majority needed to purge its bylaws of gender-specific language and to add a voting seat for a Teachers College student.

The legislature overcame earlier doubts about the clinical nursing doctorate, which first reached the Education Committee in January 2002, faced intense scrutiny at a plenary meeting in the fall of 2002, went back to Health Sciences for retouching, and returned last fall, along with a new set of standards for clinical doctorates. Education Committee chair Letty Moss-Salentijn, in recommending the new doctorate to the Senate, pronounced the revised academic program fit, but said many practice issues remain to be thrashed out between medical doctors and the doctors of nursing that programs like this one will soon be producing. The measure passed by voice vote with one nay and one abstention.

The Senate could not act on the measure to add a voting TC student senator because it was missing the half-dozen members for the three-fifths majority (60/100 incumbent senators) needed to amend the bylaws. Several schemes to circumvent this obstacle—including Sen. Richard Bullit's suggestion that a strong chairman could announce that he "sees" 60 senators present—failed to persuade parliamentary Howard Jacobson. Those present did unanimously resolve a resolution from Sen. Jeremy Waldron (Ten., Law), expressing support for the TC resolution and looking forward to its proper passage at the next Senate meeting.

That meeting will take place on Jan. 30 at 11:15 p.m. in the Davis Auditorium. Anyone with a CUID is welcome. Most documents distributed for Senate meetings are also available on the web at www.columbia.edu/cu/senate.