

Minutes for the Faculty Senate Meeting

Sept 12, 2011

Misner Room

Present: MacBain, A. Spivey, Kotsis, Hamel, Singleton, Barkin, Neshyba, Kessel, Kotel, Saucedo, Barry, Bartanen, Luther, Hannaford, Ward, Segawa.

The meeting was called to order at 4:04.

I. Announcements: The Swope Lecture (September 13, 2011)

II. By unanimous consent, Ward and MacBain were confirmed as Vice Chair and Secretary of the Senate; Barkin was confirmed as a replacement Senator for the year.

III. Special Orders: Saucedo urged the Senate to consider the issue of equity in the distribution of Distinguished Professorships and other awards assigned at the time of a faculty members' evaluation or sabbatical.

IV. The minutes of May 2 and 9, 2011, were approved.

V. Neshyba called the Senate's attention to the September 20 Faculty Meeting when a change in the By-Laws relating to the chairs of faculty committees would receive its second reading and a change in the By-Laws to include the Library Director in the membership of the Curriculum Committee, ex officio, would receive its first reading. Neshyba also confirmed that all faculty had been put on the faculty governance listserv.

VI. Curriculum Committee Charges: The Senate turned its attention to discussion and approval of charges to the Curriculum Committee (see Attachment A). The Senate charged the Curriculum Committee:

M/S/P: to consult and advise the Burlington Northern (BN) first-year seminar group on its proposed revisions to the first-year seminars;

Spivey noted that the BN Group hoped to get the proposed revisions before faculty at the October faculty meeting.

Barry and Bartanen noted that some faculty had had an opportunity to review the proposal and that the group had been supportive of suggested changes.

M/S/P: to continue discussion of integration of a diversity component into core or graduation requirements in collaboration with the Chief Diversity Officer and the Faculty Diversity Committee;

Senate discussion primarily concerned whether the intention of the proposed charge, which originated in last year's Curriculum Committee, was to create a new diversity core requirement or to create an "overlay" diversity requirement through a change in the graduation requirements (i.e., where certain courses meeting other

core requirements might also meet a diversity requirement). Senators agreed that language in the charge that included references to both the core and graduation requirements would give the Curriculum Committee necessary latitude as it discussed possible proposals.

M/S/P: to revise calendar-setting guidelines to accommodate January university holiday;

M/S/P: to revise curriculum review guidelines in consultation with department and program heads;

Bartanen noted that the guidelines had not been updated for some time and that a revision might provide an opportunity to bring guidelines more into agreement with accreditation guidelines.

Ward argued that the Curriculum Committee ought to consult with programs about such revisions. His amendment to include “in consultation with department and program heads” was approved (and is included in the above charge).

M/S/P: to develop guiding principles for the Academic Standards Committee to use in identifying suitable substitute courses allowing students with learning disabilities to fulfill the foreign language requirement;

(This charge comes to the Curriculum Committee at the request of Academic Standards Committee.)

M/S/P: to address the discrepancy in the length of fall and spring semester;
(MacBain)

VII: Academic Standards Committee Charges: The Senate charged the Academic Standards Committee (see Attachment B):

M/S/P: to continue the discussion and development of effective and innovative means to foster the implementation of the Honor Code;

M/S/P: to continue its discussions to develop a course of action(s) that facilitates faculty education and provides practical guidelines and suggestions for course procedures to minimize the utility of note-sharing and similar websites;

M/S/P: to explore establishing a policy and procedure for staff to report violations of academic integrity. In addition, the adjudication and ramifications of a violation reported by staff should be clear, as well as consistent with existing policies for academic violations;

In addition to the rationale noted by the ASC, Bartanen suggested that such revision to include staff as potential reporters of violations would reduce risk of exposure to litigation.

Ward urged that we view the intent of this charge as empowering not requiring staff to act when a violation occurs.

M/S/P: to further explore the criteria for graduating with university honors and revising the policies and procedures to be consistent with any revisions in the criteria.

M/S/Rejected: to further explore the costs/benefits of expanding the attendance policy (relating to dropping students from a course—minutes-taker) to include elements of course non-participation and to clearly address how any specific recommendations for changes in these policies minimize the potential for misuse of a revised policy's intent.

The charge was not approved, largely on the grounds of concern that the policy could be misused or abused by instructors and that the current system (i.e., where non-participation is not grounds for dropping a student from a course) promoted consultation between student and teacher.

The Senate adjourned at roughly 5:30.

Respectfully submitted,

William Barry
Senate Scribe of the Day

Tiffany Aldrich MacBain
Senate Secretary

Attachment A

2011/2012 Senate Charges to Faculty Committees

The Faculty Senate charges the Curriculum Committee:

- 1) to consult and advise the BN first-year seminar group on its proposed revisions to the first-year seminars;**
- 2) to continue discussion of integration of diversity component into core or graduation requirements in collaboration with the Chief Diversity Officer and the Faculty Diversity Committee;**
- 3) to revise calendar-setting guidelines to accommodate January university holiday;**
- 4) to revise curriculum review guidelines in consultation with department and program heads;**
- 5) to develop guiding principles for the Academic Standards Committee to use in identifying suitable substitute courses allowing students with learning disabilities to fulfill the foreign language requirement;**
- 6) to address the discrepancy in the length of fall and spring semester.**

Attachment B

2011/2012 Senate Charges to Faculty Committees

The Faculty Senate charges the Academic Standards Committee:

- 1) to continue the discussion and development of effective and innovative means to foster the implementation of the Honor Code;**
- 2) to continue its discussions to develop a course of action(s) that facilitates faculty education and provides practical guidelines and suggestions for course procedures to minimize the utility of note-sharing and similar websites;**
- 3) to explore establishing a policy and procedure for staff to report violations of academic integrity. In addition, the adjudication and ramifications of a violation reported by staff should be clear, as well as consistent with existing policies for academic violations;**
- 4) to further explore the criteria for graduating with university honors and revising the policies and procedures to be consistent with any revisions in the criteria.**