

Faculty Senate Minutes
Monday, March 19, 2012
Misner Room, Collins Library

Senators Present: Bill Barry, Ross Singleton, Elise Richman, Kris Bartanen, Steven Neshyba, Keith Ward, Gareth Barkin, Fred Hamel, Kriszta Kotsis, Kelli Delaney, and Mike Segawa.

The meeting was called to order at 5:05.

I. Approval of the minutes from the Senate meeting on March 5: none were presented for approval.

II. Announcements:

Elise Richman: “HIDE/SEEK: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture,” a touring exhibit from National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC, opened on Saturday, March 17, at the Tacoma Art Museum (TAM). TAM is the only west-coast venue for the exhibit, which explores queer identity in portraiture from the 1890s to the present. The university, reports Richman, is engaging in this exhibit in a few different ways: a university night at the museum on Thursday, April 12, 6:00 – 8:00 (admission is free with a Puget Sound ID), an interactive installation in Wheelock Student Center by Janet Marcavage’s print making class (in response to two of the artists who are part of the exhibit), and a lecture series titled “Know More about Art” that features Kriszta Kostis and Richman as two of six participants. Kotsis noted that the exhibit is not appropriate for children between the approximate ages of 3 – 12.

Tiffany MacBain (in absentia, via Keith Ward): The call for nominations in this year’s governance elections goes out tomorrow, March 20. Steven Neshyba encouraged all senators to “whip up as much enthusiasm as you can” for the election, either by encouraging individuals to self-nominate or by senators nominating individuals. Neshyba confirmed that, due to his role as project leader in a grant proposal submitted to the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, he is not running for a second term as Senate Chair. As a way of increasing nominations for the chair position, Bill Barry recommended a note be added in the call for nominations that Neshyba would not be running, since it has become typical for a person to serve two consecutive terms as Senate Chair. Ward said he would let MacBain know.

Ross Singleton: On Wednesday, March 28 at 4:00 p.m. in McIntyre 309 four economists (Wade Hands, Matt Warning, Garrett Milam, Pierre Ly) will be presenting a program focusing on the European debt crisis.

III. Special Orders: None were given.

IV. Liaison Reports

International Education Committee (Singleton): Roy Robinson has formed a sub-committee requesting that it draft policy guidelines to address the possibility of the university needing to limit for budgetary reasons participation in study abroad. Roy also asked the committee to write a document to serve faculty who are interested in proposing short-term faculty-led summer programs. (Gareth Barkin provided two models as examples: a semester-long course meeting with reduced hours during the term which incorporates a required study abroad element in the summer, and one in which a regular semester-long course offers a supplemental trip during the summer.) Following discussion on various scenarios that focused on how Roy's questions fit in with policies currently in place on approval processes for students wishing to study abroad, it was speculated by Kris Bartanen that to maximize student participation within existing budgets Roy may be looking for more guidance on criteria for those situations in which students may have to choose between two different programs. Barry expressed concern about the highest quality academic programs potentially being moved off the list for budgetary reasons. Bartanen said she did not see discussions going in that direction. Barkin also believed that there was no movement afoot to force a student into a second choice.

LMIS (Kostis): The Library will be purchasing a blanket license from the Copyright Clearance Center this summer, for which the campus community will be receiving communication in the near future. Distribution of an intellectual property statement is also forthcoming. The new technology newsletter, the first edition of which came out recently, will be published four times annually. This summer the university will be installing a new phone system. E-readers have been discussed, but it was felt that current technological limitations thwart widespread adoption. The committee on sustainability has endorsed the print management project and will start testing the system on a pilot server. The goal is to have a policy on print management in place by Fall 2012. University-wide announcements about its adoption are forthcoming.

Academic Standards Committee (ASC) (Barry): Following research by Institutional Research that correlated GPAs to success at the university, ASC will be recommending a policy change in which students receiving less than a 1.0 GPA in their first semester will be dismissed; they may apply for readmission after one semester away from campus. While a student can petition the decision, dismissal will be the default. Mike Segawa noted that data reviewed by the Retention Task Force (RTF) support the ASC recommendation. Discussion followed on whether particular academic areas affected these students' performance (Segawa noted that many of the students falling into this category probably had a math-related course in their schedules, but not all of them), how

the policy will enable RTF and other constituent bodies to focus both attention and resources on cohorts who have the potential of graduating (as opposed to the 100% failure rate of students who receive a 1.0 or less in their first semester), how to address students who may have extenuating circumstances (such as an illness or a death in the family), what the size is of the cohort affected (5-7 students annually), whether there are predictable factors – that is, pre-college characteristics (Segawa: yes, but they are not predictable with absolute certainty, and they do not reflect such intangibles as student motivation upon matriculation), and the ethics of allowing students to continue when data overwhelmingly shows that they will not succeed. Another purpose of this policy, according to Barry, is to strengthen ASC's hand by addressing the institution's cultural tendency of giving the benefit of the doubt to students when we now know this particular student cohort will not succeed.

By unanimous consent, the order of the final two items on the agenda was switched.

V. Walter Lowrie Sustained Service Award

Neshyba provided background on the award and identified past winners. His questions to the Senate regarded issues of procedure, criteria, and eligibility. The discussion that followed focused on how explicit criteria should be, what we understand "service" (and more specifically, "sustained service") to mean, how faculty should be nominated, what deliberative process should be followed, whether the nominations should be public, and what documents a nomination should include. (Searches of minutes from past Senate meetings proved inconclusive in offering guidance on these issues.)

By consensus, it was agreed that all faculty will be solicited via facultycoms to submit nominations for the Walter Lowrie Sustained Service Award. This campus-wide solicitation will include a list of past recipients. Criteria for the award are the same as those in faculty evaluations under service. Written nominations of 500 words or less describing the nominee's sustained service and how her/his work has served the university's interests (in whatever guise that would be argued by the nominator) are to be sent to the Senate Chair by a specified date (this year: April 20). Nominations will be presented to the Senate, which will select the award's winner in closed deliberation. No public announcement of the nominees will be made, but the individuals themselves will be informed of their nominations. The names of nominees and the winner of the award will not be recorded in the minutes.

VI. Continued discussion on faculty governance procedures and development of a handbook. Ward, asking on behalf of MacBain, inquired about which writing assignments for the handbook had already been made. Segawa, Bartanen, and Kelli Delany noted that they had paragraphs to write; Barkin confirmed he would take an initial stab at writing "infrequently asked questions"; Barry said he would write a statement on duties of

liaisons, and Neshyba said he would work on a section describing how business comes to the attention of the Senate. Ward began a brief introduction and demonstration on accessing SoundNet and how to edit the working copy of the Senate handbook posted on the site. Time running short, Ward said he would send directions to Senators with more detail.

Meeting adjourned at 5:34.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Ward
Scribe for the Day

Tiffany Aldrich MacBain
Secretary of the Faculty Senate