

University of Puget Sound
Faculty Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2010

1. Call to order

Pres. Ron Thomas called the meeting to order at 4.15 pm. At this time, there were 39 faculty members and 1 member of staff in attendance.

2. Approval of minutes of November meeting

The minutes for the faculty meeting of November 22, 2009 were approved as posted.

3. Election of Faculty Secretary

Brendan Lanctot was nominated as secretary and elected by acclaim.

4. Announcements

Prof. Doug Cannon asked all faculty to respond to respond to the Library Quality Survey via email.

5. President's Report

Pres. Thomas announced that the Board of Trustees were scheduled to meet March 4-5, during which the FY2011 budget will be submitted.

Pres. Thomas announced two upcoming trustee workshops: 1) a follow-up report on the response to the economic environment and 2) an enterprise risk management workshop, whose aim is to assess Puget Sound's greatest risks and points of mitigation.

Admission: Deadlines for applications have closed and applications to the undergraduate programs are up some 14%. Graduate programs in OT and PT have fared even better, though MAT applications trail. There has also been a positive response to new admissions publications and electronic correspondence, several of which have won awards.

Giving: There have been over the past year some \$9.7 million in commitments to the capital campaign, some \$3 million since October. The annual fund is slightly behind last year, though for the month of January it was about even.

Faculty publications: Pres. Thomas commended several recent and forthcoming research projects and books by faculty members.

6. Academic Vice-President's Report

Dean Kris Bartanen reported that, as a consequence of the new requirements of the Higher Education Act, a retirement advisory committee has been formed. This group will be responsible for reviewing funds available through TIAA and Vanguard. Doug Goodman will represent the faculty on this committee.

Dean Bartanen reminded faculty to complete the online sexual harassment tutorial, noting that the Faculty Code prohibits relationships between faculty members and students over whom they have professional responsibility.

For admitted students yield season, Admission's invite faculty, especially department chairs, to become involved in contacting potential Trustee Scholars, which proved effective in 2009.

7. Report of the Faculty Senate Chair

Prof. Doug Cannon reported the submission of the latest Senate report to the secretary of the board of trustees [see attached]. The report details:

- the Senate tended to delegate tasks to committees or to the full faculty.
- 4 projects underway: 1) the revised evaluation forms are being considered by the Professional Standards committee; 2) the question of open v. closed files for tenure cases being considered through consultation by PSC with Faculty Advancement Committee; 3) the P/F grading policy moving from Academic Standards Committee to the faculty; 4) a Senate ad hoc committee on child care resources for the community.

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8. Faculty Workload Differentials at NW Liberal Arts Colleges, 2010 (Mott Greene)

Prof. Mott Greene informed faculty that the faculty of Willamette and Whitman are moving to a 3/2 teaching load, making Puget Sound the last of its so-called “Northwest peer institutions” to have a 3/3 load. Prof. Greene proposed beginning a preliminary conversation regarding the merits and disadvantages of possible implementation of a similar model, and invited faculty to reach out to friends and colleagues at these and other liberal arts institution to gather data and first-hand accounts of these experiences.

In the subsequent conversation, several issues were raised regarding: the possible, necessary conditions for implementing such a model; the data points to be collected (i.e., differential teaching loads across departments; effects on class size, quality of teaching, scholarship, sabbaticals etc.); the long-term effects of such a model; whether or not such a model is desirable. Pres. Thomas recounted his conversations with his counterparts at Willamette and Whitman and suggested the possibility of forming a task force to address the issue.

9. First reading of (Nila Wiese) [see attached]

Prof. Nila Wiese gave the first reading of the revised amendment to the Bylaws on the Committee on Diversity. Her motion to adopt was seconded.

In the subsequent discussion, Prof. Bill Beardsley called attention to the key distinction between the Faculty Code and the Faculty bylaws. Whereas the former is, in effect, a joint agreement between faculty and the Board, the latter is an internal document of the faculty, which requires a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of its members to amend. He called for a clarification with regards to the procedural nature of the revised amendment on diversity.

Prof. Bill Haltom furthered this point, asking whether the board had formally rejected the first version of the amendment, or whether it had simply not been approved.

This discussion of procedure was primarily an effort to assert the fact that the faculty was independently revising its bylaws, not negotiating or collaborating with the Board.

Prof. Haltom also gave notice of a motion to amend the revised amendment, to include the phrase “by the Faculty Senate” to the end of H.b.8.

10. Report from the Benefits Taskforce (Steven Neshyba)

Prof. Neshyba reported that the taskforce is collecting feedback from faculty and staff on medical, retirement, and education benefits.

Prof. Suzanne Holland asked if the question regarding health benefits for 1-semester visiting faculty would be considered in the survey.

Prof. Bill Haltom requests unanimous consent for extension of meeting past 5.30 deadline. *Approved.*

11. First reading of amendment to the Bylaws on the Library, Media, and Information Systems Committee (Doug Cannon) [see attached]

Prof. Cannon read the amendment.

A motion was made to adopt, and seconded .

Prof. Bill Haltom suggested to add the phrase “by the Faculty Senate” to the end of section G.b.1.

Dean Alyce DeMarais motioned to remove a superfluous comma in G.a.

Prof. Cannon and seconder Prof. Julie Leff-Nippman, accepted the suggestions as friendly amendments.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45