

Faculty Senate Minutes

Oct 23, 2006

Present: Barry Anton (chair), Kris Bartanen, Terry Beck, Nancy Bristow, Robin Foster, Bill Haltom, John Hanson, Priti Joshi, Jean Kim, Juli McGruder, Hans Ostrom, Barbara Racine, Jessie Rowe, Ross Singleton, and David Sousa.

Anton called meeting to order at 4:32pm

Haltom's minutes of Oct 9, 2006 were approved as amended.

Announcement: Bartanen recognized Bristow as nominated for Professor of the Year award and presented her with a nomination certificate.

Old Business

1. Ostrom presented draft revisions to Article II, Section 2 of the Bylaws. A brief discussion followed on the pros and cons of the language, especially the verb "advise" vs "oversee," and the inclusion or elimination of the term "co-curricular. Rowe indicated that students wanted faculty mentors to be involved in guiding students and Kim urged faculty mentors to be more active in their mentoring roles. Haltom noted that Ostrom's revised language steered clear of the dangers of censorship, while leaving room for guidance.

M/S/P to adopt the Oct 14, 2006 Second Revised Draft of Article II, Section 2 of the Bylaws (see Appendix at end of minutes)

2. Haltom moved to reconsider the Proposed Revisions of Faculty Bylaws Article IV, Section 5, sub-section A that were passed in Faculty Senate October 9, 2006. M/S/P

Haltom objected to language in the second paragraph and proposed a revision. Foster noted that Haltom's new wording eliminated the "crisis situation" language. As the paragraph had initially been introduced to address such a situation, Foster suggested eliminating the paragraph entirely. Ostrom moved to postpone consideration of this revision until Haltom had worked up alternative language that addressed the "crisis situation" issue and when Ryken, who had objected to the language initially, was with us again. M/S/P

3. Sub-committee to update Honorary Degree guidelines: Bartanen presented proposed revisions that she, Anton, and Ostrom made to the Committee On Honorary Degrees document. Most of the revisions were to update the text's language to make it less gender exclusive, remove references to university's religion, and insert current mission statement. The major substantive changes pertained to the President's request to consider ways to ensure that honorary degrees recipients would add recognition to the university.

Motion to accept the changes. M/S/P (one abstention).

4. Academic Class Schedule: Ostrom reported that, based on a number of conversations he had been having, the issue of the schedule is one that has upset many people. He offered that the issue is one of more than scheduling, but of the mixed messages that faculty, especially junior faculty, are receiving. He then presented a list of nine questions he had prepared as a starting point that we could present to the ASC as it moves to gather information on the question.

Sousa reflected that as the schedule affects so many different parts of the campus community perhaps putting the task to the ASC might not be the right move. He also wondered if a project of this scope might not be too much for an already-busy ASC and if we might not consider creating an ad hoc committee that would address the issue.

Much lively debate ensued. Points raised related to:

- the difference between information gathering vs creating a set of principles upon which a schedule would be created.
- the multiple constituencies on campus involved and ways to reach all of them
- the possible size of an ad hoc committee and its make up
- the ad hoc committee's charge

After much debate, the following motion was proposed: To form an ad hoc task force that would consist of members of the Senate and the ASC. The charge of the task force is to gather information from all relevant constituents on campus regarding scheduling issues and preferences. The task force will draft principles on which to base scheduling needs and will present its findings to the Senate and ASC. The goal is to generate prioritized principles on which the deans could frame a schedule that best meets those principles.
M/S/P

The senators who volunteered to serve on the ad hoc committee were: Kim (chair), Ostrom, and Sousa. [Due to scheduling conflicts, the composition of the committee was later altered: Sousa will be replaced by Anton.]

5. Calendar: Beck presented the changes approved by the Curriculum Committee. The changes are listed in the document "Guidelines for Setting Academic Calendar"

Motion to delete items B & C under "Summer" in Guidelines document. M/S/P (one abstention).

Also motion to approve 2007-8 calendar prepared by Curriculum Committee. M/S/P

6. Departmental Guidelines Available on Protected Web: Joshi read the PSC's request for feedback from the Senate as to whether it was desirable to post department evaluation guidelines on the web (accessible only to faculty members). Questions came up about current practice and whether the proposed change would create standardization or equitable guidelines. The general tenor of the conversation, however, was to put faith in

transparency and make each department's guidelines available.

7. Motion to adjourn at 5:50pm.
Not sure if the motion was seconded and passed - everyone was out the door!

Submitted by Priti Joshi

Appendix to Oct 23, 2006 Faculty Senate Minutes (see item #1)

Draft: Revision of Article II, Section 2 of the Bylaws October 14, 2006

Current:

Sec. 2. **Responsibilities of the Faculty.** The Faculty shall create and maintain a superior academic climate in the University. To this end, the Faculty shall prescribe, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees, the graduate and undergraduate courses of study, the specific courses to be offered, the nature and requirements of graduate degrees to be conferred, the requirements for graduation and recommend all candidates for baccalaureate and advanced degrees and/or honors to the Board of Trustees, the standards of instruction, and the general rules and methods for the conduct of educational work of the University and any rules for the regulation of student publications, musical, dramatic and literary clubs, and other student affairs related to the academic life of the University.

Second Revised Draft:

Sec. 2. **Responsibilities of the Faculty.** The Faculty shall create and maintain a superior academic climate in the University. To this end, the Faculty shall contribute to the development of the University.

The Faculty shall establish the standards and methods of instruction and oversee how the educational work of the University is conducted. The standards of instruction are subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

The Faculty shall create the graduate and undergraduate courses of study in schools, departments, and programs. The Faculty shall approve the specific courses to be offered and establish the requirements for undergraduate and graduate degrees.

The Faculty's decisions regarding courses of study and requirements for degrees are subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

The Faculty shall recommend all candidates for baccalaureate degrees, advanced degrees, and honors-at-graduation to the Board of Trustees.

The Faculty shall advise students' media, including, but not limited to, newspapers, magazines, radio programs, video programs, and electronic publications, when such media are related to the academic and co-curricular life of the University. The Faculty shall advise students' artistic, dramatic, literary, and musical organizations, insofar as such organizations affect the academic and co-curricular life of the University.