



921 South 8th Avenue • Pocatello, Idaho 83209-8063

January 9, 2011

ISU Faculty Senate

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to clarify issues related to the motions scheduled to be considered by Faculty Senate on Monday, January 10.

Stop the Clock Motion

The language of this motion reveals that there is considerable misunderstanding about this policy. The Tenure Clock Readjustment Policy simply states that “To assist current ISU tenure-track faculty in meeting these increased expectations, ISU’s Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs offers all tenure-track faculty hired from 2004-2008 the one-time opportunity to extend their tenure review period for up to three years. These extensions will be granted for the expressed purpose of allowing faculty additional time to develop the requisite scholarly activities needed to meet increased rigor in our college-level and institutional tenure expectations.”

Faculty must apply for the extension by letter to their department chair. Upon the chair’s approval, the letters are forwarded to the appropriate dean for review and approval, who will then forward the letter and his or her recommendation to the Provost for a final decision. This opportunity was available to faculty all last year, but no one applied for an extension. This year, five faculty applied for and received extensions.

The Office of Academic Affairs has always had the authority to issue extensions, as provided for in Idaho State Board of Education policy section II.g.6.d.4.b.

Budget Process Motion

Vice-President Fletcher has never received a memorandum from Mary Hofle (Faculty Senate Budget Council Chair) dated November 2, 2010, regarding annual budget cycle recommendations. He will be more than happy to respond to this memorandum once the Senate secretary presents it to him.

The Vice President’s staff has been at work preparing a response to the request made at the Open Budget Forum on December 13, 2010; however, the request as stated in the proposed Budget Process motion “recommendations, approvals, denials, and rationales...”, as well as for both the Fall 2010, and Fall 2011 years is much broader than the request as made in the Open Budget Forum on December 13, 2010.

ISU Faculty Senate
January 9, 2011
Page Two

Organizational Chart Motion

As is the case in most universities, the Faculty Senate is a part of Academic Affairs. Its budget is funded by and overseen by Academic Affairs, and this has always been the case at ISU.

An organizational chart simply shows reporting lines of units; it does not designate rank. So to speak of the Senate as being either of decanal or vice presidential rank is to misunderstand the function of the organizational chart.

The Faculty Senate makes recommendations to the University President *through* the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. This is consistent with State Board of Education policy Section III, C.2 and with the University President's authority to delegate authority and responsibilities to his or her vice presidents.

Faculty/Staff Handbook as Binding to the Institution Motion

As was communicated to Senate Chair Phil Cole formally by ISU's General Counsel on September 28, 2010, it is not a legally or factually true statement to say that the Faculty/Staff Handbook is always legally binding. As the General Counsel wrote, "In conclusion, while many policies contained within the current version of the Faculty/Staff Handbook may be "binding," depending upon the context, for the reasons stated above it would be inaccurate and premature at this time to add the statement, as proposed." Please refer to his full explanation of this in his memo.

Given these clarifications, we hope you will consider withdrawing these motions from consideration.

Sincerely,

Gary Olson

Gary A. Olson
Provost and Professor
Academic Affairs

Sincerely,

James Fletcher

James Fletcher
Vice President
Finance and Administration