

**FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES**

VOLUME XXIV, MEMO 10

February 7, 2005

Faculty Senate Conference Room

Red Hill Building

4:00 pm

I. PRELIMINARIES

- A. Attendance: Allen, Branch, Christensen, Crews (teleconference), DeJesus, Delehanty, Devaud, Devine, Fisher, Frank, Frantz, Jull, Kantabutra, Klein, Masserini, McCurry, McLaughlin, Newsome, Norton, Pumphrey, Rodnick, Semenza, and Vik
ex officio: Dr. Bowen, Francis, Nilson, and Sierra for ASISU
Work Study Student: Mary Galindo
Guests: Jeri Spinner
Absent: Hill (excused), Lohse (excused), Ottaway (excused), Reynolds, and Westphal
- B. Minutes of January 24, 2005
ACTION: Moved by Devaud and seconded by DeJesus to approve the Minutes of January 24, 2005. **Passed unanimously.**

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REPORTS

- A. Chair –
1. Higher Education Week in Boise – January 24-28
SBOE Meeting – The request for the Vice-President of Health Services was approved unanimously, however, after approval the president of the Board, Rod Lewis, stated that ISU must update and inform the Board regarding this position. Dr. Bowen stated this is not common policy and has never been requested before.
ASISU president, vice-president, and the student lobbyist testified against tuition.
JFAC – topics included ISU’s health science mission, tuition and community college mission.
The president of the Board stated that tuition is simply a mechanism to create greater flexibility for universities regarding what students pay. He also stated that it is only a change of name from fees to tuition and will not affect students at this point. Dr. Bowen stated that the Board members this year cannot assure what the Board members in subsequent years will do.
ISU Day at the Capitol –Vik stated that he feels ISU still has the strongest presence of all universities.
 2. President’s Staff and Deans’ Council -

Faculty Awards – the awards have been coordinated through the Academic Vice President’s office for many years. A dean suggested that the Faculty Senate should coordinate the awards.

TRIO – President Bush’s budget will strike out TRIO. This program has been at ISU since the 1970s and creates many opportunities.

- B. Budget Oversight and Priorities Committee – DeJesus reported that the committee is studying recommendations at this time.
- C. Ad hoc for Administrative Evaluations – Frank reported that the committee is working.
- D. Foundation Board update – There is no committee at this time. The Foundation Board is meeting on April 1 and Jeri Spinner would like to have some recommendations to bring to them.

Recommendations were: to generate a list of possible donors, in order to retain faculty members a “hardship faculty fund” might be set up, endowed chairs or professorship positions, and to equip the library with search engines.

Vik asked for volunteers to form an **ad hoc committee – Dave Delehanty, Kay Christensen, Diana McLaughlin, and Vitit Kantabutra volunteered.**

- E. Domestic Partner Benefits – Masserini gave a presentation regarding the establishment of domestic partner benefits for faculty and staff. 280 colleges and universities offer domestic partner benefits. Of ISU’s 16 peer universities, 9 offer domestic partner benefits, including BSU. Two types of benefits are soft and hard. Soft benefits are a Bengal card and all that goes with it; hard benefits are health and life insurance. Northern Arizona University has a model to establish domestic partners that ISU would follow.

Establishment of these benefits would help ISU in recruitment and retention of high quality faculty.

Discussion: Dr. Bowen stated that he would be happy to work on the soft benefits right away. There was discussion about dependent benefits. The senators were reminded that dependant benefits were already approved by the Senate and forwarded to Dr. Bowen. Dr. Bowen stated that he is working on those benefits. Some senators would like to discuss domestic partner benefits with their constituents. Although establishing health insurance for domestic partners is the goal, soft benefits will be easier to begin with.

ACTION: Moved by Delehanty and seconded by Kantabutra to keep this on the agenda for the next meeting.

ACTION: Moved by Nilson and seconded by Delehanty to accept the soft benefits for domestic partners and bring to a vote at the next meeting. **Motion passed. 20 for, 2 opposed, 1 abstention.**

III. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Minutes of Councils
 - 1. Council for Teaching & Learning Minutes of November 29, 2004
 - 2. Campus Planning Council Minutes of December 1, 2004
- B. Faculty Appointments to Councils
 - 1. Campus Planning Council – outreach faculty position (3 years)

ACTION: Moved by Klein and seconded by Semenza to accept the consent calendar. **Passed unanimously.**

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Curriculum Council's draft statement of philosophical position with regard to Undergraduate Teaching Assistants –

ACTION: Moved by Devaud and seconded by Nilson to remove the item from the table. **Passed unanimously.**

There was discussion if a university policy was necessary when the issue is at the department levels. Semenza reminded the senate that this is a philosophical position and not a policy; a guideline would be helpful for turnover in the Curriculum Council membership. Francis stated that the Curriculum Council's concerns were that the budgets are driving the curriculum. DeJesus suggested to exclude labs and first year seminar.

ACTION: Moved by McCurry and seconded by McLaughlin to table the issue. **Motion passed. 15 for, 1 opposed, 1 abstention.**

- B. Faculty Senate bylaws – addition of distant faculty to Senate – item remained tabled.

V. ADJOURNMENT: 5:45

Peter Vik, Chair

Connie Patchin,
Administrative Assistant I

Approved: February 28, 2005

Documents:

Faculty Senate Minutes of January 24, 2005

Council for Teaching & Learning Minutes of November 29, 2004

Campus Planning Council Minutes of December 1, 2004