

**IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE  
MINUTES**

**VOLUME XXV, MEMO 12**

**February 13, 2006  
Faculty Senate Conference Room  
Red Hill Building  
4:00 pm**

- I. Preliminaries
- A. Attendance: Beard, Christensen (Chair), Crews, Curtis, DeJesus, Delehanty, Devaud, Devine, Hill, Kangas, Kantabutra, Klein, Masserini, McCurry, Miller (via teleconference), Newsome, Norton, Rankin, Reynolds, Rodnick, Sieber, and Vik  
*Ex officio*: Krehbiel, Hargraves, and Nelson  
Absent: Allen, Bowen, McLaughlin, Oliphant, Ottaway, Semenza, and Woodworth-Ney (all excused)  
*Administrative and Graduate Assistants*: Connie Patchin and David Robinson
- B. Faculty Senate Minutes
1. January 25, 2006
  2. January 30, 2006
- ACTION**: Moved and seconded to approve the minutes of January 25, 2006 and January 30, 2006. **Passed unanimously.**
- II. Open Forum
- Senator Masserini – Domestic Partner Hard Benefits
- Masserini reminded the senators that last year ISU began offering soft benefits for domestic partners. He explained that hard benefits are health insurance including: medical, dental, vision, and mental health. Masserini wants to encourage ISU to offer hard benefits to domestic partners. There are 296 universities and colleges nationwide who offer medical benefits to partners; this is up 16 from last year. The following surrounding states have domestic partner benefits: Washington (5), Oregon (8), Montana (University of Montana), and Utah (University of Utah).
- For each faculty member (and staff) who is hired at ISU, the university pays \$7,125/year for medical benefits. This includes the faculty member and all of their family members. This cost is the same for a single faculty member. The employee pays any extra costs. There will be no cost to ISU for medical insurance for domestic partners.
- Health benefits are regulated by the Idaho Department of Administration. At this time Masserini is unaware if the director of the Department of Administration can make changes or if it has to go through the legislature.
- He is also looking for support from the other universities in Idaho in order to change the state code.
- This is the first step in the process to offer domestic partner medical benefits and wants feedback from senators and faculty.
- Giving equal treatment with medical benefits to all faculty (staff) would help in retention and recruitment, and clear up the opposition in the discrimination policy.
- III. Announcements & Reports
- A. Chair – the senators had access on the Faculty Senate web site to the full list of announcements for the meeting. Highlights:

1. Please read the faculty salary study on the Academic Affairs website.
2. Please read the response to the accreditation report. Drs. Adamcik and Kijinski will be making a presentation at the next meeting on February 27, 2006. Faculty needs to be aware of how ISU is addressing issues raised by NWCCU (Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities). A reviewer will be visiting ISU campus on April 17 to assess compliance with certain NWCCU recommendations.
3. ISU needs to have a presence in the Wood River Valley (Sun Valley area). This has come at the request of alumni and ISU supporters in the area.
4. There is a chance to settle the equity issue among universities. There was \$10.5 million originally identified as necessary to restore equitable funding among BSU, U of I, and ISU. It may be advantageous now to settle for a lesser sum to be paid and added to ISU's base, because ISU is experiencing decreasing enrollment that will affect ISU's share of equity.
5. Bengal project – Dr. Gallagher is interested in developing an area on campus with a Bengal statue, waterfalls and rocks. He is looking for input.
6. Spring 2006 enrollment is down. This may cause \$1 million drop in revenue.
7. There is a budget meeting on Friday with the budget officers and students for a discussion on fee increases. Christensen and DeJesus will be attending.
8. Dr. Wharton is working on implementing a procedure for dean evaluations.
9. Faculty Senate report at Deans' Council – Christensen was able to report on current issues for senate.
10. Records Management Advisory Committee is looking for a faculty member. **David Beard volunteered.**
11. Enterprise Applications Steering Committee is looking for a faculty member who uses the computer system on a regular basis. **Kangas nominated Sara Knudsen for this appointment.**
12. This May is the first commencement for the ISU-Boise campus. Faculty are encouraged to attend
13. Christensen explained that motions need to be action statements. If any lengthy statements or letters need to be created, these will be resolutions. Resolutions should be written ahead of time and presented at the meeting for the full senate to act upon.

#### IV. Consent Calendar

- A. Faculty Appointments to Councils
  1. Research Coordinating Council
    - a. College of Arts & Sciences – natural science – nominations for Leif Tapanila and Scot Kelchner  
**A vote was taken and Scot Kelchner was appointed to the Research Coordinating Council.**
  2. Council for Teaching & Learning
    - a. College of Arts & Sciences – replacement for Jessica Winston (03-06) – nomination for Maria Wong
  3. Academic Standards Council – Arts & Sciences – spring 2006 replacement – nomination for Jennifer Krumper
  4. Faculty Professional Policies Council – College of Business (term through 08)
- B. Minutes of Councils
  1. Curriculum Council
    - a. Minutes of January 12, 2006
    - b. Minutes of January 19, 2006

2. Cultural Affairs Council Minutes of December 2, 2005
3. Academic Standards Council Minutes of November 30, 2005

**ACTION:** Moved and seconded to approve the remainder of the Consent Calendar.  
**Passed unanimously.**

V. Unfinished Business

A. Faculty Salaries

Christensen requested approval from the senate for her to draft a letter or letters concerning salary increases to be submitted to the education committees in both houses of the legislature.

**ACTION:** Moved and seconded to approve that Christensen write letters addressing salary increases to the legislative education committees. **Passed unanimously.**

VI. New Business

A. Faculty Senate Bylaws

1. Article III, Section I,2. – qualify for membership
2. Article III, Section III, 1. – regular elections

There was discussion regarding who the senate should be representing. Some senators wanted clarification of definitions of different faculty on campus.

**ACTION:** Moved and seconded to form a subcommittee to work on the Faculty Senate Bylaws to: define the terminology, decide who the senate should represent, solicit input, and find statistics on how many faculty fall under each different category. **Passed unanimously. Kangas, Devaud and Klein volunteered for the subcommittee.**

B. Phased retirement

Vik forwarded an email from a faculty member regarding phased retirement. Hill would also like the policy to be reviewed for those who are not eligible for Emeritus Status as a tenured faculty, but have committed their career to ISU and deserve this status. It was also noted that because the College of Technology faculty are no longer eligible for tenure, eligibility for Emeritus Status will become an issue in the near future.

**ACTION:** Moved and seconded to send this issue to the Faculty Professional Policies Council for review. **Passed unanimously.**

VII. ADJOURNMENT: 5:35.

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Kay M. Christensen, Chair

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Connie Patchin,  
Administrative Assistant I

Approved: February 27, 2006

Documents:

Faculty Senate Minutes of January 25, 2006  
Faculty Senate Minutes of January 30, 2006  
Chair announcements February 13, 2006  
Curriculum Council Minutes of January 12, 2006  
Curriculum Council Minutes of January 19, 2006  
Cultural Affairs Council Minutes of December 2, 2005  
Academic Standards Council Minutes of November 30, 2005  
Resident Credit Requirements new language