

**IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES**

VOLUME XXV, MEMO 15

April 3, 2006

Faculty Senate Conference Room

Red Hill Building

4:00 pm

- I. Preliminaries
 - A. Attendance: Allen, Beard, Bowen, Christensen (Chair), Curtis, DeJesus, Delehanty, Devaud, Devine, Hill, Kangas, Kantabutra, Klein, Masserini, McLaughlin, Miller (via teleconference), Newsome, Norton, Rankin, Reynolds, Mike Thomas for Rodnick, Semenza, Sieber, Vik, and Woodworth-Ney
Ex officio: Krehbiel, Nelson, and Adamcik for Wharton
Guests: Blake Beck and Gail Dial
Absent: Crews (excused), McCurry (excused), Oliphant (excused), and Ottaway
Administrative and Graduate Assistants: Connie Patchin and David Robinson
 - B. Faculty Senate Minutes of March 20, 2006
ACTION: Moved and seconded to approve the minutes of March 20, 2006, with clarification. **Passed unanimously.**

- II. Open Forum
 - A. Learning Management System (LMS) – WebCT – Blake Beck (Manager, Media/Distance Learning Center)

Beck explained that ISU is looking at a new LMS because WebCT 4.0 will no longer be supported as of summer 2007. University focus groups are meeting to review product options including WebCT 6.0. WebCT users on campus will be asked to try options this summer and fall and provide feedback before a final decision is made by the end of fall semester. Bowen presented a faculty member's concern that, regardless of the LMS chosen, the transition will have significant impact on faculty workload. Departments must be informed about the time and effort needed to convert courses so this will be accounted for in budgeting, promotion and tenure decisions. Beck explained that migration to a new LMS should not have a large impact on faculty because LMS packages have a commonality of tools and interface that make migration straightforward. The Media/Distance Learning Center will also assist with the transition and work to alleviate any major impact on faculty.
 - B. Ceremonial Mace and Bengal Tiger Statue – Gail Dial (Professor of Art)
 1. President Gallagher has asked Dial to do a feasibility study for a bronze tiger statue that will serve as a focal point on campus for gatherings and photographs (e.g. graduation, homecoming). The tiger will be larger than life-size, surrounded by rocks and a fountain. Several sites have been recommended. There is overwhelming support from the community and Dial has received commitments for several thousands of dollars in donations. She is asking for faculty input on the project. Bowen noted that in the Campus Planning Council Minutes of February 23, 2006, the council recommended the concept, even though the location has not been selected.
 2. Dial is currently working on a ceremonial mace, which is a symbol of the faculty's authority in academic matters, to be used at commencement, carried by

the Faculty Senate Chair. It will be made of turned wood, sterling silver, and gold.

III. Announcements & Reports

A. Chair – A complete narrative of Chair announcements will be available on the Faculty Senate web site.

1. President's Staff Meetings –

- a. The General Faculty meeting is on April 5th at 4:00 in VA 117. Please encourage faculty attendance.
- b. Budget Hearings will be conducted April 11 and 12 in room 268 of Oboler library. Unit directors will present their current budget, their requested budget and the percentage increase it represents, new positions requested, and their top three budget priorities. At the end of each day, a summary of the presentations will be given. Christensen and DeJesus will attend all of the presentations. Christensen encouraged senators to go to their college presentations to take advantage of this opportunity to be involved. She further explained that everybody is interested in feedback. It is important to have an institutionalized process that is respected.
There were questions about how budget allocations and priorities will be decided as a result of the hearings. There was discussion about the different stages of the budget process. There is a difference between ISU deciding how to use the money it receives for this fiscal year from the legislature's higher education appropriation (which stage of the process happens roughly April to June) versus ISU deciding what funding requests to include in its budget request to the SBOE and the legislature for the next fiscal year (which stage of the process happens roughly July - September).
- c. There is a new version of a community college bill, which will be voted on by the House on April 4. To date there have been three or four bills, each with its own criteria for an RFP that were to be submitted with a very short deadline. The College of Technology has been heavily involved in formulating ISU's community college proposal because the COT will be significantly impacted. The proposal can be reviewed at the Academic Affairs website. This issue will be addressed during the general faculty meeting.
- d. Dr. Ron McCune, VP for Health Sciences, attended a conference on the potential for pandemic avian flu in Idaho. The Center for Disease Control will conduct an Idaho statewide flu pandemic simulation exercise in June to test the overall response of various agencies.

2. Honorary Degrees – The senate submitted three names for honorary degrees; however, President Gallagher does not feel the nominees qualify for the award. He has expressed concern that ISU lacks adequate criteria to properly evaluate nominees. He wishes to establish the honorary degree as an exceptional award and have clear criteria adopted that will reflect and preserve the highly honorific nature of the award. Because of this, President Gallagher does not wish to award an honorary degree this year.
Some senators felt it was inappropriate to deny recommendations for the degree on grounds of inadequately articulated criteria when these criteria have been used for a number of years without complaint. Due to a carry-over nomination from the prior year, the senate was denied an honorary degree for its nominee last year.

There is currently an ad hoc committee that will review and revise the honorary degree criteria.

It was noted that, in the past, nominees have been awarded honorary degrees with minimal background information provided for evaluation. It was felt some persons were nominated primarily because of large donations to ISU.

It was expressed that commencement will be dignified with a mace, yet it will not be dignified with an honorary degree.

Christensen has had a number of discussions with President Gallagher about this issue.

ACTION: It was moved and seconded to ask President Gallagher to reconsider the individual candidate for an honorary degree under the current criteria, who has been nominated twice, and who was deferred from last year in the spirit of cooperation. **21 yes, 2 no, motion passed.**

3. Christensen and the presidents of COPE and CEC will be meeting with Dwight Johnson, SBOE Executive Director, on April 13, 2006.

IV. Consent Calendar

A. Faculty Appointments to Councils

1. Commuter Bus Advisory Committee – faculty senate member
2. Campus Planning Council
 - a. College of Arts & Sciences (fine arts)
 - b. College of Business – one year sabbatical replacement for Kevin Parker
3. Cultural Affairs Council (meets once a month, Friday afternoons)
 - a. College of Health Professions
 - b. College of Arts & Sciences
4. Faculty Professional Policies Council (meets the last Thursday at 11)
 - a. College of Business (05-08)
 - b. College of Arts & Sciences
 - c. College of Pharmacy – **nomination for Mark Olah**
 - d. College of Education
 - e. Library
5. Research Coordinating Council
 - a. College of Arts & Sciences
 - i. Humanities
 - ii. Social
6. Teaching & Learning (meets the first Tuesday at 4)
 - a. College of Arts & Sciences
 - b. College of Business – **nomination for Priscilla Reis**
 - c. College of Health Professions – **nomination for Mary Anne Reynolds**

B. Minutes of Councils

1. Athletics Advisory Board Minutes of February 2006 (FYI only)
2. Research Coordinating Council Minutes of January 26, 2006 – no action items
3. Faculty Professional Policies Council Minutes of February 23, 2006 – no action items
4. Cultural Affairs Council Minutes of February 17, 2006 – no action items
5. Campus Planning Council Minutes of February 23, 2006

ACTION: It was moved and seconded to approve the consent calendar. **Passed unanimously.**

6. Academic Standards Council Minutes of February 22, 2006
Due to an oversight, these minutes were not placed on the agenda. They were voted on via email from April 6-10. **14 yes, 2 no, Motion passes to approve the**

action item in the Academic Standards Council Minutes of February 22, 2006.

- V. Unfinished Business
- A. Nominations for Vice-Chair/Chair Elect and Executive Committee for 2006-2007
Names for Executive Committee are: Michael McCurry, Leslie Devaud, Randy Norton, and Laura Woodworth-Ney. A vote will be taken during the April 17, 2006, meeting.
- B. Faculty Senate Bylaws
ACTION: It was moved and seconded to remove the bylaws from the table. **23 yes, 1 no, motion passed.**
ACTION: It was moved and seconded to adopt the new language in the bylaws to make 0.5 FTE Clinical and Research Faculty eligible to serve on Faculty Senate.
Passed unanimously.
- C. Domestic Partner Benefits
ACTION: It was moved and seconded to recommend to that health benefits be extended to domestic partners at ISU. **Passed unanimously.**
Senators were reminded that there is no cost to the university for extension of these benefits. Dr. Gallagher has recommended that the Executive Committee members working on this issue contact U of I and BSU and involve the other higher education institutions in obtaining this benefit.
A senator asked if this should be an all-faculty vote. It was agreed that each senator had ample time to receive feedback from their constituents as this is not a new issue.
- D. Faculty Salaries –
Christensen has delivered a memo to President Gallagher setting forth the Faculty Senate's request that each year's budget include a line item for faculty raises (a minimum of 3%, more if funds are available) and that the salary goal be set at 100% (not 85%) of the mean/median of peer institution comparisons. Adamcik explained President Gallagher's position that the 85% benchmark is a starting point only; once 85% of mean is reached, the percentage will be increased. This will be addressed during the general faculty meeting.
- E. Foundation Board/Faculty Senate Committee –
Christensen explained this is a permanent committee of the senate with ongoing work, unlike an ad hoc committee. She will look into how to set up the committee.
- F. University Code of Ethics
Christensen discussed this further with Dr. Wharton. There was no incident or occurrence motivating his request for the senate to consider adopting a university code of ethics. He believes it is a good idea to have a code of ethics for the entire university, a general statement of its adherence to certain standards or principles. Senators agreed that the sample policy attachments sent to the senate were troubling in many respects. It was noted that AAUP has a code of ethics; if faculty should have one, this would be the best. Some senators do not believe an additional policy is warranted.
ACTION: The Faculty Senate affirms its adherence to the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) Statement on Professional Ethics. **Passed unanimously.**
- VI. New Business
- A. Emeritus Status for Dr. Mary Jane Burns
ACTION: It was moved and seconded to approve this outstanding candidate for Emeritus Status. **Passed unanimously.**

B. 50 Credit rule guidance for Curriculum Council

Marcia Francis, Curriculum Council Chair, sent a letter for guidance on the 50 credit rule. It states "A maximum of 50 credits may be earned in the major area of study. In general, the number of credits in excess of 50 earned in the major filed must be reflected by that same number of credits required for graduation." This rule is routinely ignored by certain programs, which indicates a need to review it.

ACTION: It was moved and seconded to refer this policy to the Academic Standards Council for review. **Passed unanimously.**

VII. ADJOURNMENT: 6:05.

Kay M. Christensen, Chair

Connie Patchin,
Administrative Assistant I

Approved: April 17, 2006

Documents:

Faculty Senate Minutes of March 20, 2006

Athletic Advisory Board Minutes of February 2006

Research Coordinating Council Minutes of January 26, 2006

Faculty Professional Policies Council Minutes of February 23, 2006

Cultural Affairs Council Minutes of February 17, 2006

Campus Planning Council Minutes of February 23, 2006

AAUP Statement of Professional Ethics