

IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES

VOLUME XXVII, MEMO 1

August 27, 2007

4:00 PM

Pharmacy Building, Room 162

In Attendance: Beard, Bowen, Campbell, Crews, De Jesus (sabbatical replacement), Delehanty, Edwards, Guryan, Kangas, Kantabutra, Kearns, Keeter, Manopoulos, Masserini (Chair), Moulton, Murphy, Norman, Payne, Sieber, Smith, Thomas, Vik, Wilson, Womack
Non-voting: Attebery, Fullerton, Wallace (Recording Secretary)
Excused: McCurry (sabbatical), Oliphant
Absent: Adler, Brown, Curtis, Ray, Vailas, Wharton

I. Preliminaries

A. Gavel ceremony

De Jesus, last year's Chair, officially passed the Senate Chair's gavel to Masserini in a symbolic gesture welcoming the new Chair.

B. Attendance and Introductions

The Senate members introduced themselves, starting with the Executive Committee

II. Announcements and Reports

A. Chair Announcements

1. ERP representative needed for the Leadership Team

David Alexander wants to include a faculty member on the Leadership Team; no volunteers as yet. Masserini urged Senators to recruit a member.

2. President's Cabinet/SBOE Meeting in Twin Falls

Masserini attended the State Board of Education meeting in August. Dr. Vailas is this year's Chair of The Council of University Presidents. They met this summer and brought some recommendations to the Board of Education:

a) Faculty and Staff Salary Compensation

The Presidents unanimously agree that faculty and staff compensation is a top priority.

b) Institutional Competitiveness amongst Idaho's institutions

Concurrent enrollment – Univ. Presidents encourage secondary schools to look at their students' preparedness for college. Dr. Wharton has been charged with putting together a presentation, and will be looking at this issue.

The program name is changing from "Concurrent Enrollment" to "Idaho State University Early College Program".

c) Meth addiction in Idaho

The Governor is very concerned about this growing problem and is establishing a centralized body to work on the issue. Universities will be asked to conduct workshops and disseminate information. Dr. Lee Krehbiel is already working to educate ISU students about meth, and other ISU departments will become involved in the near future.

d) Financial issues – discussed in President’s Cabinet meeting

The State Dept. of Financial Mgmt will be looking at financial feasibility when supporting academic programs, and any proposals for expanding a program. However, Dr. Vailas supports ISU’s commitment to a well-rounded liberal arts education as well as all other educational programs ISU offers. Financial considerations are important, but are not the only considerations. As new programs from all disciplines are considered, the financial ramifications will be scrutinized. A Budgetary Needs template will be distributed to, and followed by, the Vice President of Finance for all the universities.

e) Residency Requirements

ISU is the most in line with current laws regarding residency. There may be a state-wide initiative for stricter compliance at some point.

B. Faculty Senate 101

As a result from a suggestion made last year, this document clarifies what Senators are expected to do. Masserini urged Senators to read and follow it. Masserini also urged Senators to recruit more senior faculty for councils and committees. This will not only take some of the service pressure off the junior faculty and allow them more time for research and teaching, it will also encourage more institutional knowledge and established academic experience for the councils to draw upon.

Bowen reminded Senators that some Colleges may need to divide their constituency amongst their Senate representatives to eliminate duplication. Senators are encouraged to contact their constituents, solicit their concerns and keep in touch with them over the year.

C. Senate Goals for 2007-2008

Masserini will continue to ask for ideas over the course of the year. His first priority is **faculty empowerment**. The Faculty Senate is governed by the faculty and is charged by the University to handle many responsibilities, as evidenced by the Senate Councils’ purview. Faculty has a vested interest in these issues, and must take responsibility for them. Another goal is creating an environment for faculty that fosters happiness and productivity.

A **Strategic Planning** document was created last year that outlines some of the Senate goals for the next while: e.g., faculty salaries and governance restructuring. Much of the initial work in devising Senate goals was already done when creating the Strategic Plan.

Tuition reduction for dependents was also discussed. The proposal is stalled at the moment. It was suggested that a Council be tasked with defining exactly what the Faculty as a whole want from such a proposal. The Senate should provide some guidance to the Council on this issue.

Another concern was the **ISU Early College Program** and the impact it would have on students. The pressure to increase enrollment does not necessarily encourage maintaining rigorous academic standards. Crews mentioned that the Boise campus has been tracking that data and she will forward more information. Dr. Wharton has also been involved in that issue. The Senate should bear in mind the Idaho Falls and Twin Falls campuses are impacted as well.

The intent of the Early College Program is not only to raise revenue, but also to give high-school students an idea what college is really like. However, it is important to be careful in choosing which classes high school students are allowed to take. The Academic Standards Council would be a good forum for exploring this issue further.

Another concern expressed by several Senators was: Where does the Administration stand on the issue of balancing enrollment numbers with retention and rigor? Thomas was on the Task Force looking at enrollment last year. The emphasis was more on recruitment than on retention. Some of the Task Force’s suggested solutions were to dramatically increase the

proportion of out-of-state students, target students that are likely to be successful at ISU, etc. There is a report available that could be posted to the Senate website.

Senators were urged to think about more goals that can be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

III. Consent Calendar

Kangas and Bowen pointed out that the first Action items listed on the Minutes from the last meeting were confusing and did not accurately reflect intermediary discussion before the issue was ultimately tabled. **The Minutes were amended to correct this deficiency.**

A **nomination** was added by Norman for **Scott Anderson** to fill the **Cultural Affairs Council Arts & Sciences** vacancy. Anderson is a senior faculty member in the Music Department, is the Director of Choral Activities and is an internationally renowned choral conductor.

Campbell **nominated Marcella Enos** as the College of Technology's Business and Information Program representative on the **Council for Teaching and Learning**. She is finishing her doctorate degree in Learning Institutions this fall and is a full-time faculty member.

Vik recommended pulling the **RCC Bylaws** from the Consent Calendar to be discussed further before voting on it. **Masserini officially pulled the Bylaws.**

ACTION: Bowen moved to approve the remainder of the Consent Calendar as amended with new nominations, seconded by Norman. No discussion. **Passed unanimously.** Bhushan, Anderson, and Enos were appointed to the Councils as nominated.

IV. Unfinished Business

A. RCC Bylaws revisions – pulled from Consent Calendar

There was disagreement as to whether the Research Coordinating Council Chair should be specified as “full time” rather than allowing half-time or part-time faculty members to serve as Chair. Not all qualified faculty are full-time since some excellent research and clinical faculty are considered to be part-time. It was suggested to defer the vote until after further review of the old bylaws and the Council has a chance to revisit the language. There may be valid reasons why the Council chose to specify half-time rather than full-time.

ACTION: Delehanty moved to **table** the RCC Bylaws until after further information is available, seconded by Sieber. No discussion. **Passed unanimously.**

V. New Business

A. Faculty Senate Advisory Council

This is to be a new Faculty Senate Council. This is not meant to be a decision-making body; it is a discussion forum for Council Chairs, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and key Upper Administration members to help facilitate communication and discuss campus issues. It also should help in the implementation of recommendations generated by the Senate and its Councils.

Masserini has written bylaws for this Council and shown them to Dr. Vailas and Dr. Wharton who both liked them. Those bylaws will be part of the next Faculty Senate agenda for approval, after they are forwarded to and reviewed by the Executive Committee and all the Council Chairs. The Chair of the Faculty Senate will set the Agenda for the Advisory Council.

B. Honorary Degree Criteria revision

Masserini received an email from the General Counsel's Office. The work done last year by the Senate was forwarded to Dr. Wharton and Dr. Vailas, who made some suggestions for changes. It then got lost in the pipeline somewhere.

A Faculty Senate Handbook approval form was developed to act as a routing form to follow the progress of recommendations through the system. Masserini, Bowen, Attebery and other committee members will review the form to make sure it contains the changes they wanted. The Honorary Degree nominations are due November 1st.

C. Handbook Revisions

This summer Masserini carefully perused the Faculty/Staff Handbook and identified many sections about Faculty Senate and governance that need revising. He suggests forming a Senate Task Force with 3 or 4 members to correct and update the Handbook to reflect the work that the Senate actually does. All requested changes to the Handbook that pertain to Faculty governance and Faculty Senate would be approved by the Senate.

The Handbook proposal would provide a vehicle for any faculty member who wants to suggest changes to submit written suggestions to the Faculty Professional Policies Council, who would forward it to the appropriate body for the revisions to be made. The revised copy would be returned to the FPPC for approval, and finally forwarded to the Senate for Senate approval. The Senate would revise the Senate portions, and the FPPC would be responsible for monitoring the revision of portions pertaining to faculty issues.

ACTION: De Jesus moved to **form a small Task Force** to look at Faculty Senate issues and revise them in the Faculty Staff Handbook where needed. Seconded by Keeter.

Discussion: Keeter wants to review what has already been done. Masserini clarified that it is not necessary to burden the entire Senate membership with reviewing the Handbook since there are other projects that will come up during the year and the workload should be distributed. A suggestion was made to implement a policy that allows the Senate to retain control over what changes are made and prevents any changes from being made by any other body after Senate approval is given.

The **vote** was taken and the motion **passed unanimously**. Masserini asked for volunteers to work on the Task Force; those interested should contact the Faculty Senate office.

D. Other Business and Announcements

The Rendezvous Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is this Thursday at 1:00 on the east side of the building. Senators were urged to attend.

The Inaugural Celebration for Dr. Vailas is scheduled for September 13th and 14th. The Faculty Senate is invited to the Reception at 5:30 pm on September 13th in the Marshall Rotunda of the Performing Arts Center. Invitations will be mailed to Senators. The Gala Performance will be at 8:00 pm – tickets are available for Senators and a guest.

The Investiture Ceremony is at 10:00 am on Friday, September 14th. Faculty are encouraged to participate in the procession; classes may be cancelled at the discretion of the instructor.

Dr. Barbara Adamcik, the Vice-Provost for Institutional Planning and Effectiveness is now a member of the President's Cabinet to represent womens' interests.

Dr. Wharton is an ex-officio member of the Faculty Senate Advisory Council, as is Dr. Vailas. Dr. Wharton expressed willingness to attend Senate meetings if the Senate deems it important that he be there. This issue can be discussed at more length in a subsequent meeting. Masserini will get clarification as to whether the Senate has direct line to Dr. Vailas or Dr. Wharton, or both.

E. Faculty Senator Appointments to Councils

Masserini emphasized the Senate Office needs help updating the Website. Shane Moulton volunteered to take on that responsibility. He and any other volunteers will be voted on in the next meeting.

F. University-wide Tenure and Promotion Committee

Masserini assured the Senators that although the idea is still in the beginning stages, the faculty will be quite involved in the committee since tenure and promotion are under the purview of Faculty and the Senate. Some Senators were concerned that the Administration might want to hand-pick faculty members, and reiterated that faculty should retain the power over deciding who should be on the Committee.

Dr. Wharton already mentioned FPPC as the Council to work on this issue, which is a further indication that faculty will have primary involvement. Other concerns were expressed about the effectiveness of one discipline attempting to evaluate the qualifications and work of someone from another discipline. Masserini suggested Senators talk to their constituents about these issues and revisit this in a future Senate meeting.

Adjournment: 6:00 pm.

The next Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2007.

Dr. John Masserini, Chair

Catherine Wallace,
Administrative Assistant 1

Approved by Faculty Senate: October 1, 2007

Documents:

Faculty Senate 101 document
Faculty Senate Minutes of May 7, 2007
Council for Teaching and Learning Minutes of February 13, 2007
Council for Teaching and Learning Minutes of April 10, 2007
Athletics Advisory Board Minutes of May 10, 2007
Research Coordinating Council Annual Report 2006-2007
Grade Distribution Report, Spring 2007