

Idaho State University
Academic Standards Council
Minutes

Wednesday, August 26, 2009

3:00 PM

Faculty Senate Conference Room, REND 301

In Attendance: Denner, Enos, Frantz, Hertz, Krumwiede, Mickelsen, Stowe, Swetnam

Excused: Ford

Non-voting: Wallace

1. Preliminaries and Announcements

a. 2009-2010 Meeting Schedule and Membership List – handouts

Marcella Enos, this year's Academic Standards Council Chair, welcomed council members and asked if meeting on Wednesdays would still work for everyone – there were no objections from those in attendance. Wallace prepared and distributed an Academic Standards Council meeting schedule for the 2009-2010 academic period. It was decided that if there were meeting dates listed on the schedule that were not necessary, they could be cancelled as needed. Enos noted that she will be in Virginia the day of the November 4 Academic Standards Council meeting and Swetnam will be at a conference on October 21.

Wallace prepared and distributed the 2009-2010 Academic Standards Council membership list and noted a handful of vacant council positions still need to be filled. Wallace also stated the Ford will be retiring and will no longer be the Academic Affairs representative for the council. No decision has been made as to who will be replacing Ford. Wallace said that the committee needs an Arts and Sciences representative, an Engineering representative, an Academic Council Dean representative, and a Faculty Senate representative. Wallace also mentioned that Stowe is no longer the Arts and Sciences representative but the Arts and Sciences Dean representative. Suggestions as to whom Wallace could recommend to Faculty Senate for filling vacancies on the Academic Standards Council were welcomed. Krumweide stated that he will be serving on Faculty Senate and will no longer be on the Academic Standards Council.

b. Introductions

No introductions were necessary.

c. Announcements

No announcements.

d. Guest Speaker: Alan Frantz, Faculty Senate Chair

Frantz was at another meeting and was not able to attend. Enos suggested that Franz be asked to speak at the next council meeting.

2. Minutes for Approval

a. Minutes of October 15, 2008

ACTION: Moved by Stowe **to approve the minutes of October 15, 2008.** Seconded by Denner. No discussion. The motion **passed;** the minutes were approved unanimously with one abstention by Swetnam. She was not in attendance when this meeting was held.

b. Minutes of December 17, 2008

Correction: Swetnam was not on sabbatical the semester this meeting was held. She was teaching a class on Wednesdays. Wallace noted that it was an excused absence and will make the changes.

ACTION: Moved by Stowe to **approve the minutes of December 17, 2008**. Seconded by Mickelsen. No discussion. The motion **passed**; the minutes were approved unanimously with one abstention by Swetnam. She was not in attendance when this meeting was held.

3. **Council Chair's Report 2008-09**

- a. Selvage was excused and unable to make it to the meeting to give the Council Chair's report for 2008-09. Wallace commented that Selvage will finish his report before the next meeting and will send it to all council members via email.

4. **Continuing Business**

- a. Wallace was asked to follow up on the International Student Second Degree/Bachelor Degree Policy that was discussed at a previous council meeting.

5. **New Business**

- a. Council members were asked to select a Scholastic Appeals Board Chair and an Academic Dishonesty Board Chair. Enos asked for any nominations for this position as it historically had been filled by someone on the Academic Standards Council. Swetnam volunteered to serve as the chair of the Academic Dishonesty Board and Denner agreed to serve as the Scholastic Appeals Board Chair as long as it didn't conflict with his current position at the College of Education.

ACTION: The committee **nominated Swetnam to serve as the chair of the Academic Dishonesty Board and Denner to serve as the chair of the Scholastic Appeals Board Chair**. The members voted and the motion **passed** unanimously. Denner asked for a caveat on his election in case another faculty member at the University would like to hold the position. If Faculty Senate can find someone else to fill the position, Denner would like to respectfully withdraw.

b. Admissions Appeals

Enos turned the floor over to Stowe to discuss academic appeals issues. For the last year, Stowe has served on the Admission Appeals Committee and has been concerned with some of the things he has seen. The committee's purpose is to hear petitions from students who have been denied admission to the University. For fall semester 2009, there were 151 academic petitions with 20 percent being denied and 80 percent being successful. In regards to College of Technology petitions, there was not one petition where the chair recommended against admitting the student. Stowe felt that the current processes of the Admission Appeals Committee are extremely **unfair**. Those **students who were denied admission** and did not appeal because they understood that they didn't meet minimum standards lose out when other, less-qualified students who do appeal are accepted to the University.

Stowe recommended that the Academic Standards Council **develop guidelines** for admission appeals. Enos asked for any further discussion on the topic. Swetnam recommended objectifying the process so that the Admission Appeals Committee would have **a set of objective descriptors** for making an appeal decision easier and clearer. Denner commented that having **alternative methods and standards** for setting conditions when making decisions regarding appeals would be a good idea. Stowe recommended that a **subcommittee be formed** to write a set of standards for the

admission appeals petition process. Enos agreed that a subcommittee should be formed and asked for volunteers. **Stowe** and **Hertz** volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. Swetnam recommended that **Pat Packer** from the College of Technology be asked to serve on the subcommittee. Wallace recommended that someone from the academic side also serve on the subcommittee. Council members were asked to send names of other academic faculty members that they would like to recommend to the subcommittee to Wallace.

ACTION: Swetnam moved to authorize Stowe **to form a subcommittee which would be subject to final approval of the council.** Seconded by Denner. There was no further discussion. The members voted and the **motion passed** unanimously.

- c. Wallace mentioned that there have been problems with things getting lost when they have been sent to administration for approval. Council members stated that this is an issue that needs to be resolved by Faculty Senate. Swetnam **recommended that a resolution** from the Academic Standards Council be sent to Faculty Senate that could be read into their minutes voicing the council's approval and encouragement for the ongoing process of solving the problems Wallace mentioned. Enos asked Hertz to draft a resolution that could be discussed at a future council meeting.

6. Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 16, 2009, at 3:00 p.m.** in the Faculty Senate conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Allen
Recording Secretary

Approved by Academic Standards Council: September 16, 2009
Remanded by Faculty Senate for clarification: September 28, 2009
Revised and approved by Academic Standards Council: October 7, 2009
Accepted by Faculty Senate: October 12, 2009