

Idaho State University
Faculty Professional Policies Council
Minutes

Wednesday, September 17, 2008
2:30 PM
Faculty Senate Conference Room REND 301

In Attendance: Allen, Carr (telecom), Ford, Hasenpflug, Hatzenbuehler, Johnson, Kratz, Marsh
(Chair), Shropshire, Strickland (for Squires), Steiner
Excused: Payne (sabbatical), Savage
Non-voting: Wallace (Recording Secretary)
Guest: James “Byrd” Yizar (Student Affairs)

1. Announcements and Introductions

Marsh welcomed Glenda Carr, the new College of Pharmacy representative in ISU-Boise and Jane Strickland, filling in for David Squires from the College of Education.

2. Guest(s): James “Byrd” Yizar – Chair of the Reed Gym User Fee Task Force

Marsh invited Yizar to inform the Council members of the background and progress of the Reed Gym User Fee committee. The task force was charged to explore the concept of user fees for campus recreation facilities and who should bear responsibility of paying for the necessary operating costs. At President Vilas’ request, the task force began their work over the summer revising the Reed Gym Fee proposal circulated last spring, but knew they had to wait for faculty, staff and students to return in the fall before much progress could be made. The composition of the Task Force includes representatives of faculty, professional employees, classified employees, ASISU Student Senators, Human Resources and managerial staff for Reed Gym/Recreation Facilities.

The money for the remodeling construction has already been allocated, but at a **minimum an additional \$200,000 per year will need to be raised to cover operating costs**. The \$54,500 per year or so that has been recently brought up has over the years become part of the operating budget for Campus Recreation to help pay for repairs and to maintain the building. Operational costs are not the same as occupancy costs, so ISU cannot ask for extra funding from the State. Yizar admitted that the available information was not well disseminated to the university community. One question that remains unanswered is exactly when the proposed user fees would go into effect, i.e. when the new facility actually opens (projected to be Spring 2010); or that academic year; or sooner? Another open question pertains to the equipment, facilities and amenities that would be added.

Hasenpflug pointed out that Senators and Council members need to have a **ball-park estimate of the amount faculty would be asked to pay** before they can go to their constituents and get feedback. Too much depends on the actual fee amount, what specific amenities that fee would pay for, and how it would compare to private gyms such as Gold’s or Fitness, Inc. Yizar replied that the very **preliminary** fee estimate would work out to approximately \$10 per month per person, subject to change depending on the task force’s recommendations.

Upon hearing the proposed idea for a single centralized and monitored entrance, Hatzenbuehler strongly advised **removing all academic programs from the Reed Gym building** because too many non-student and non-ISU affiliated people need to have unrestricted access (e.g. textbook supplier representatives, community members seeking information from dietetics professors, and other such non-gym-related visitors).

Marsh observed a couple of **essential elements that are still missing** and would need to be gathered before constituents could be approached:

- Clear data on faculty use of Reed Gym – there are many people on campus who can relatively easily crunch the numbers if they have the data
- Clear information on what the specific budget items and amounts are and how exactly the fees would be allocated

Yizar would welcome having a Council member join the task force and act as a liaison between the two groups if any of the members were so inclined and if Lee Krehbiel, the Vice President of

Student Affairs, were amenable to the suggestion. **Marsh said he would write a letter to Krehbiel proposing such a liaison.** The Council thanked Yizar for coming as he left for another appointment. **Kratz volunteered to be the Council's liaison with the task force** if the proposal is accepted.

The Council members discussed what they had learned amongst themselves. A few of faculty's concerns that must be addressed were:

- **Access to the gym facilities:** when classes are in session or community groups are using them, the facilities are closed to other users. Private gyms do not face this problem; but nor do they have a swimming pool, climbing wall or indoor tennis courts.
- **Dependents and guests:** faculty are more likely than most students to have families that want to use the gym as well, which would increase the user fees they would have to pay.
- **The broken promise:** faculty are angry and disillusioned by what they perceive as renegeing on a promise to them and taking away one of their very few perks without their consent. Free use of Reed Gym is part of their compensation package for working at ISU and a right as stated in the Faculty/Staff Handbook.
- This is a **broader issue** than the User Fee Committee is apparently looking at. There are other avenues to consider and explore as well.

For their next meeting, Marsh urged Council members to think of priorities and specific tasks that can be undertaken on this charge.

3. Minutes of September 3, 2008

Due to time constraints the Minutes **will be voted upon via email.**

4. Continuing Business

a. Reed Gym User Fee – new charge from Faculty Senate

Included in the discussion above.

b. Travel policy

No charge to work on this yet; any discussion on it can wait until next time.

c. Children in the Workplace policy

Hatzenbuehler suggested the policy be shortened and the overall tone changed to be more family friendly. As currently written it does not have much value as a recruiting tool for new faculty.

5. New Business

a. Phased Retirement Policy – new charge from Faculty Senate to revisit the policy and work with Human Resources to address Administrative concerns and get the policy implemented.

Marsh, Hasenpflug and Hatzenbuehler volunteered to work on this task as a small subcommittee.

6. Adjournment: 4:10 p.m.

The next FPPC meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 8, 2008 at 2:30 p.m.** in the Faculty Senate Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Wallace
Administrative Assistant 1
Faculty Senate Office

Approved by Faculty Professional Policies Council: October 8, 2008

Accepted by Faculty Senate: October 13, 2008