

Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
September 1, 2009

Members Present: Katrina Barron, William Berry, Philip Bess, Seth Brown, J. Randy Crist, Antonio Delgado, Morten Eskildsen, Judy Fox, John Gaski, Nasir Ghiaseddin, Timothy Gilbride, Tom Gresik, Vijay Gupta, Chris Hamlin, Maxwell Johnson, Jessica Kayongo, David Ladouceur, J. Parker Ladwig, Chris Mahmood, Tom Marullo, Joyelle McSweeney, Connie Mick, Catherine Perry, Yael Prizant, J. Keith Rigby, Carolyn Rodak, Salma Saddawi, Robert Schmuhl, Robert Schulz, D. Katherine Spiess, Mark Suckow, Anthony Trozzolo, Julain Velasco, Ryan Brellenthin, Richard Williams, Anita Kelly.

Members Excused: Mark Beudert, Michael Brownstein, John Griffin, Kim Kwan, Kevin Mongrain, Dianne Pinderhughes

Members Absent: Alan Johnson, Robin Rhodes, Juan Rivera, Vikas Tomar.

Departments without a Senator: Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering; Computer Science and Engineering; Electrical Engineering; Irish Language and Literature; Philosophy.

The meeting began at 7 PM in 159 Mendoza.

1. Introductions: Senators introduced themselves by name and constituency to the group at large.
2. Opening Prayer: An opening prayer was offered by Katherine Spiess, Finance.
3. Memorial Resolution: A memorial resolution honoring faculty members who have recently passed away was approved and a prayer was offered by Fr. Paul Kollman, C.S.C. The faculty members so honored included:

Terrence J. Akai, Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering

Alfons J. Beitzinger, Political Science

Joseph Bobik, Philosophy

Charles Craypo, Economics

Gregory L. Curme, Economics

Ernest Ludwig Eliel, Chemistry and Biochemistry

Cecil B. Mast, Mathematics

James S. Phillips, Music

Michael A. Signer, Theology

Robert P. Vecchio, Management

4. Chair's Report: The Chair addressed the Senate on the following matters.

A. Events since May

- The Senate resolution regarding undergraduate absences for job and graduate school interviews was sent to the Academic Council for review.
- John Affleck-Graves created an ECDC Review Committee consisting of 10 persons, including faculty, staff, and administration. Salma Saddawi was named Senate representative to the ECDC Review Committee pending ratification by the Senate (see below)
- The Chair met with Gordon Wishon, the head of OIT, to open lines of communication.
- The Chair met with Dennis Jacobs regarding the CIFs. The meeting covered such matters of faculty concern as low student participation, the use of the CIFs in promotion and tenure cases, and student inducements. The Provost's Office is in the process of developing and implementing university inducement procedures to improve participation rates.
- The Chair described a meeting with other members of the faculty who serve on the Academic and Faculty Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees; of these faculty members only the Chair of the Faculty Senate is routinely invited to present a report to the Trustees. The Chair's ability to address the Trustees is a valued privilege extended to the Faculty Senate which the Chair works to maintain.
- The Faculty Senate Office was moved to 719 Flanner, and a new assistant, Shanelle Felder, was hired.

B. Rhythms of Senate Work: The Chair reminded Senators of the general contours of the Senate calendar:

- September: Committees define and focus agenda items
- October-February: Committees studies issues and develop resolutions
- March/April: Committees bring resolutions to the Senate for final consideration
- Throughout the year: The Senate addresses other matters which arise.

C. Key Issues for 2009/2010: The Chair then charged the committees to take up the following matters in their meetings:

- The Academic Affairs and Administrative Affairs Committees were charged with planning initial meetings with representatives from the Provost's Office to follow up on the implementation of recommendations regarding hiring and retention of women and minority faculty
- The Academic Affairs Committee was charged with bringing their resolutions on student academic honesty to the floor of the Senate
- The Benefits Committee was charged with continuing their regular discussions with HR and with the administration regarding salary and benefit changes.
- The Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committees were charged with addressing faculty concerns about the CIFs
- The Academic Affairs Committee was charged with considering the matter of library holdings and the current petition among some faculty members to expand such holdings.

5. Ratification of Appointments: The Senate ratified Salma Saddawi's appointment to the ECDC Review Committee and Tim Gilbride's appointment to the Bookstore Advisory Committee

6. Committee Meetings: At 7:30 PM, the Senate broke for committee meetings for 40 minutes.

7. Committee Reports: At 8:10 PM, the Senate reconvened and chairs of the various committees announced the following objectives for 2009/2010:

--Student Affairs: The Student Affairs Committee will take up the Chair's charge to address the CIFs and to form a joint task force with Academic Affairs for this purpose. In particular, they will follow up on the plan for university-implemented inducements and will consider the matter of what if any resolutions need to be taken up re. faculty concerns with the CIFs.

--Benefit Committee: The Benefits Committee will address the terms under which health benefits are available to children of faculty members who are at college out of town and thus out of network. It will investigate the plan by which H1N1 flu shots will be administered (cost, coverage, distribution, etc.). It will continue to monitor faculty salaries viz. peer institutions. It will follow up on handicap access, infant nursing stations, and other matters of accessibility on campus. It will investigate the faculty 'Death Benefit', the effect of St. Joseph Hospital's new location on faculty access to services, and HR's efforts to modify how care is rendered to those who require regular, doctor- or nurse-administered injections for health maintenance.

--Administrative Affairs: Administrative Affairs will follow up on the recommendations made in last year's report regarding the retention and hiring of women and minority faculty, in conjunction with Academic Affairs. They will follow up on the Administration's plans and policies regarding Catholic hiring. They will form a working group regarding changes in the Academic Articles as to the duties of SPFs. They will investigate the fate of the Queer Film Festival. They will study whether compensation and support for Department Chairs should be uniform across colleges or across the university or scaled to the size of departments. They will communicate with the Administration regarding the 'Workplace Standards' initiative. They will communicate with the Athletics Department regarding the as-yet-unset football schedule for Fall 2010 and the special problems this creates for academic planning.

--Academic Affairs: Academic Affairs will complete and submit its academic honesty resolution; will engage in fact-finding regarding faculty satisfaction with library holdings; will address faculty concerns with the CIFs in conjunction with Student Affairs; will recommend actions regarding the hiring and retention of women and minority faculty, per last year's report; will study how outside activities by faculty such as consulting are monitored by the University.

8. Closing Remarks by the Chair: The Chair enjoined Senators to poll their departments regarding faculty satisfaction both with health benefits for college-aged children and with library holdings. He announced plans to have a presentation on upcoming changes to faculty benefits at the October meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Joyelle McSweeney, Department of English.