

Minutes  
Faculty Senate  
April 10, 2007

After the members present introduced themselves, Colin\* Jessup\* offered an opening prayer.

#### 1. Chair's Report

Seth Brown opened with thanks to all senators, especially those concluding their terms, and announced the evening's agenda items. The May meeting will be Tuesday, May 15, at 7 pm.

Philippe Collon urged members to run for offices in the Senate and noted issues that may be on next year's agenda.

#### 2. Review of Revision of Academic Articles

Charles Barber gave background on the process of the decennial review. The committee sought to resolve inconsistencies and bring language in line with actual current practice. The section on the appeals process has not been substantially changed but will be up for separate revision next year. He pointed out notable changes in the articles, of which copies including the proposed revisions, as well as an overview summary sheet, were distributed.

Discussion followed. A senator pointed out a number of places for which a fuller description of complete decision-making processes would be helpful and said that the language would generally benefit from further refinement. A senator suggested that the three- rather than six-month termination notice for one-year positions (in III.3) was too short. A senator raised a question on the appointment of deans (in I.4) with no faculty input beyond election of members to the search committee. A senator suggested that procedures for hiring the provost (II.1) could preserve confidentiality while including more faculty input, while another noted the limitations of making only tenured faculty eligible to serve on the search committee. A senator queried the language of the characterization of faculty responsibilities in III.12. Seth Brown reviewed the outcome for issues previously noted for the committee by the Faculty Senate, and there was discussion of whether further revision was still called for. The question was raised of adequate legal review of the articles from the perspective of all parties involved (both administrative and faculty).

An ad hoc committee was formed to follow up on these and any other issues that might arise concerning the articles, and then to report to the full Senate: John Robinson, Charles Barber, and Seth Brown.

John Robinson moved that the Faculty Senate recommend that the Academic Council postpone final action on the decennial review of the Academic Articles until after the Faculty Senate has had opportunity to study the proposed revisions and to make recommendations regarding them. Vaughn McKim seconded. Debate followed. The question was called, debate ended, and the resolution approved by voice vote.

### 3. Resolution from the Student Affairs Committee on Graduate Student Health Insurance

Kelly Jordan explained that the resolution was intended basically to express support for the Graduate Student Union's call for a better health plan, rather than to advocate specifics at this point in the process.

The floor was opened for debate. A senator noted the lack of "family" rhetoric, often employed at Notre Dame. Kelly Jordan noted that the resolution instead emphasizes the resolution's congruence with the University's major goal of improving as a research university. A senator who had previously served as a director of graduate studies for his department said that he had found stipends and improved health plans to be an either-or proposition: Kelly Jordan said that he believed it was no longer a zero-sum game. A senator noted that the net cost differed for graduate students in different colleges and programs and questioned the fairness of the situation; another senator argued that students in programs such as MBA and Law had different expectations for earning potential compared to, e.g., Ph.D. students in the humanities—for him the salient question was the competitiveness of Notre Dame admissions packages compared to those in other schools.

The question was called, debate ended, and the resolution approved by voice vote.

### 4. Resolution from the Academic Affairs Committee on Course Evaluations

John Gaski offered a brief review, with handout, of scholarly literature on the increased reliability and validity of multiple-item measures rather than single-item measures, by way of questioning the University's high reliance on Q. 17 in isolation to assess quality of teaching and suggesting that the University would be better served by using multiple-item scales. He noted that the issue under discussion was not the appropriateness of student evaluations as such, but how to make the best possible use and most accurate recording of student evaluations.

The floor was opened for debate. Questions of the consistency of scaling and language of the questions were raised, and the discussion refocused on the resolution itself, with some concern expressed for the accessibility of its language to readers untutored in the subject, depending on its intended audience.

The question was called, debate ended, and the resolution passed by voice vote.

### 5. Treasurer's Report

David Klein went over the year's expenditures; the Faculty Senate will run moderately over its quite small budget this year because of the upcoming dinner with Fr. Jenkins. It was noted that the administrative assistant's salary is not part of the budget but is instead paid by the provost's office.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Marvin  
Co-Secretary

Attendance Roster  
April 10, 2007

**Present**

Anthony Trozzolo  
Barry Keating  
Carlos Jerez-Farran  
Charles Barber  
Christine Becker  
Colin Jessop  
Collin Meissner  
Dan Lapsley  
Dan Lindley  
David Klein  
David Ladouceur  
Don Sporleder  
Gail Bederman  
James Rakowski  
John Adams  
John Gaski  
John Robinson  
John Stamper  
Julia Marvin  
Kelly Jordan  
Kevin Misiewicz  
Lei Li  
Linda Sharp  
Mark Dehmlow  
Mike Etzel  
Nasir Ghiaseddin  
Noreen Deane-Moran  
Orlando Menes  
Philippe Collon  
Robert Howland  
Robert Norton

Salma Saddawi  
Seth Brown  
Susan Youens  
Tim Schoenharl  
Timothy Ovaert  
Tom Gresik  
Vaughn McKim

**Excused**

Al Miller  
Claudia Polini  
Judy Fox  
Jeff Talley  
Mary Prorok  
Michael Brownstein  
Meredith Chesson

**Absent**

Peter McQuillin  
Richard Pierce

**Departments without**

**Representatives**

Theology  
Computer Science and  
Engineering  
Electrical Eng