

Faculty Senate, May 4, 2005

Minutes

{*Attendance needed from roster}

Jodi Warner chaired until election of Seth Brown, whereupon he chaired.

1. Minutes of April 5, 2005, meeting approved (Brown moved, Collon seconded).
2. Officers elected, all by acclamation: Seth Brown, chair; John Stamper, vice-chair; Julia Marvin and Mary Prorok, co-secretaries; Jodi Warner, treasurer.
3. Harold Pace and Craig X **{*missed last name}** came to discuss Renovare and the process by which it will replace administrative systems on campus.
 - a. Issues on development of the system: avoiding overcustomization that impedes updating; trying to involve campus users in development to avoid future problems. Oversight Committee and Guidance Council advise on avoiding and solving gaps between current and new software. In effect, ND community must adjust existing procedures in order to conform with the software.
 - b. Training: through the User Profile Assessment, the Renovare group is trying to use people within campus units to communicate developments. Training schemes are tested on the Training Advisory Group. The Integrated Communications Team puts together groups who need to learn the same aspects of the system. The system will “go live” aspect by aspect, with “just in time” training for different items so that the learning curve will not be too steep. Example: online grade sheets (no more bubble forms) will start with the summer session and move to whole community with fall 2005 midterm grades, with training by online tutorials.
 - c. Benefits and resources for help: the eventual elimination of SSN as identifier for both students and faculty was noted; InsideND will be the main gateway for all kinds of information; the “Registrar Resource Central” on registrar’s web page is a useful resource for faqs and tutorials; many classes have been held and will be held.
 - d. Comments and questions from senate members:

Philippe Collon: I have not heard a single positive comment about Renovare thus far. So far students do not find the system to work and can only register for a couple of their needed classes; people who phone with questions always get voice mail and never get answers to messages left. Response: a big issue in science classes is a jump in majors, with not enough room in the classes. In the liberal arts, popular classes are always hard to

get into. We are working on finding the right number of seats to be reserved for students in a given major—there are problems with second majors and minors being excluded. We will work on refining registration system this summer.

Gail Bederman: History is having a lot of trouble with exclusion of 2d majors from classes. The system now makes reserved seats visible to students who can't get into them, who are feeling desperate. Response: yes, the new system offers less flexibility in allocating seats, but we need to stay with it and structure allocations by the maximum number of students allowed. We are still working on it.

Chris Waller: The interface seems to freeze up and requires multiple windows. Response: It takes getting used to: we suggest using insideND as your home page, because it will eventually provide information without your having to log in to anything.

Noreen Deane-Moran: the design leaves something to be desired; online photos seem to allow access only to current classes. Response: The system will eventually have same photo functions, only better; please contact Doug McKenna with any access problems.

John Robinson: are there enough problems with Mac compliance to necessitate special attention? I keep getting thrown out of system. This is a big problem for A&L. Response: We're working on it and can contact the A&L computing office with bulletins on particular issues. We have no e-mail list for individual users but could develop one if warranted.

Other comments and questions from senators:

Q: How can we balance enrollment in multiple sections of the same course? Response: You can try adding seats on in incremental blocks; ad hoc help may be able available from the dean's office. Q: then spaces may become available to students with later registration times that were unavailable to those with earlier ones—this seems unfair. Response: Students can see departmental enrollment strategy, which can indeed create problems.

Q: Is it feasible to call OIT? A: Yes, they can help too or refer you.

Q: We need to reach real people with our questions. Playing phone tag isn't working. A: We are working on support.

A comment was also made concerning the inconvenience and confusion surrounding the 5-digit course codes.

Seth Brown: computer systems exist to serve us, not vice versa—it sounds as if this principle is in trouble here. Response: yes, system not a perfect fit from start; we seek refinement from vendors, which we may or may not get; we have to consider the tradeoff of the cost of customization versus filling our needs. All decisions are rigorously reviewed and we continue to consider the issues.

4. After breaking up for committee meetings, the Senate reconvened to elect committee chairs (listed below, all elected by acclamation) and discuss future agenda items.

- a. **Academic Affairs:** John Robinson chair. Upcoming issues: how current library and publishing practices should be considered in evaluating appropriate requirements for promotion, tenure, and also SPF standards; also the possibility of Senate involvement in, e.g., the Provost Search Committee. The means by which this committee was constituted are by no means clear, and not all schools seem to be represented.
- b. **Administrative Affairs:** Collin Meisner chair. Issues: questions about the search process for University officers; possible representation of the Faculty Senate at new faculty retreats?
- c. **Benefits:** Nasir Ghiaseddin chair. Issues: summer pay and retirement plan contributions; what about 20% bookstore discount?; question of tuition discount for faculty children; HR initiatives to change faculty payment schedules; making sure retiree benefits aren't reduced.
- d. **Student Affairs:** Philippe Collon chair. Issues: ongoing work on TCES; also the constraint on activities/academic freedom for students because only accredited clubs can get rooms to meet in; making sure changes on student policies don't "sneak in."

Seth Brown: we'll further consider agenda in September meeting.

5. Traffic Appeals Committee election. John Stamper and Noreen Deane-Moran elected by acclamation.

6. Campus Life Committee election. Two representatives are needed: election deferred until fall, because no past member was available to characterize the position.

7. Old business:

a. Senate minutes should begin to appear in ND Report in the fall. Vaughan McKim noted that there is not a history of minutes appearing in anything like a timely fashion—how better to keep the faculty informed and remind the community that the Faculty Senate is a active body? The Chair could write a brief summary for the ALFAC list to better disseminate what we do; the chair is not eager to take on this task, but the Senate will keep considering what to do. A link to minutes on InsideND was another possibility mentioned. The importance of publishing the minutes in an official document with legal force was noted.

b. Noreen Deane-Moran: The TCE committee is now called the "Committee to Better Inform Students Choosing Courses." It has a mix of faculty and students: one obvious issue is that of students looking for classes that provide easy As, as evidenced by some of the supplementary questions suggested by students. In the future, the administration will be asking for pretty exact course descriptions (e.g., workload and nature of assignments). Over the summer the administration will be working on distilling questions and possible

formats for supplementary TCE questions, with the faculty to be consulted in the fall. The questions don't seem as if they'll be objectionable to faculty but may not satisfy students. This is all in addition to the current TCEs.

c. John Robinson: the committee on proper evaluation of teaching for retention/advancement assessment has met only once, to discuss concerns about giving teaching appropriate status and assessment in relation to a perceived overemphasis on publishing.

Seth Brown noted that in light of the Senate origination of these committees, it would be good to hear back from them about their work at some point.

No new business. Adjourned about 9:20 pm.