

Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting

September 6, 2011

Members Present: J. Douglas Archer, Brandon Ashfeld, Philip Bess, Michael Brownstein, Andrew Cernicky, Jeffrey Diller, Morten Eskildsen, Thomas Flint, Patrick Flynn, Judy Fox, John Gaski, Nasir Ghiaseddin, Martin Haenggi, Michael Hemler, Danielle Joyner, David Ladouceur, Chao-Shin Liu, Alexander Martin, Tom Marullo, Patricia Maurice, Paul McGinn, Sarah McKibben, Connie Mick, Eric Morgan, Catherine Perry, Dianne Pinderhughes, Kali Rath, John Robinson, Brett Rocheleau, Anthony Trozzolo, Sophie White, Richard Williams, Antonio Delgado, Keith Rigby, Christine Becker, Ellen Childs, Salma Saddawi

Members Excused: Sebastian Rosato, Yongtao Zhang

Members Absent: Timothy Gilbride, Ian Kuijt, Karel Matous, Paulinus Odozor, Jeff Schorey

Guest: Mark Beudert

Departments without a Senator: Arts and Letters (at large), Science (emeriti), Biological Science

This meeting was held in room 3130 of the Eck School of Law.

Morten Eskildsen called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and Mark Beudert offered the opening prayer.

There was a motion to approve the minutes of the May meeting, the motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The usual round of introduction took place with special emphasis put on the new elected senators.

Morten Eskildsen read the Memorial resolution for the Faculty that passed away last academic year.

Morten Eskildsen presented his vice chair's report (online)

Mark Beudert gave an explanation of the reason why his election as chair of the Senate was void since he was not eligible to be a representative of the Dept. of Music since he is a SPF. He also said that everybody acted in good faith and this was the result of a mistake. He thanked the entire senate and left the meeting.

Morten Eskildsen announced that the executive committee agreed that the best way to solve this issue was to elect a new chair of the Senate. No one opposed.

There were two candidates, Keith Rigby and John Robinson. Each candidate offered a few remarks. John Robinson urged the Senators to vote for Keith Rigby. The election took place with a secret ballot. The result was 7 votes for John Robinson and 28 for Keith Rigby. Therefore Keith was elected as new chair.

The meeting broke into committees at 7:30 and returned at 8:10.

Keith Rigby took the floor for the election of the chair of the Administrative Affairs committee; John Robinson was elected by acclamation.

Afterwards the different standing committees gave their report:

The Academic Affairs committee reported that they will spend most of their time looking into how the new system for tenure and promotions is working, especially in regards to women being discouraged to go forward. The issue of the possibility of a chair of a department also being a PAC member and therefore having a double vote will also be examined. These issues will be discussed with Associate Provost, Dan Myers as a starting point. A second issue that will be studied is the implementation of Open Access publication on campus and how it does affect tenure packages.

The Administrative Affairs committee explained that they will have to look again into the Conflict of Commitment Policy since it did not go through last year. John Robinson is going to insist to the Administration that the Faculty Senate has to be informed whenever a new policy is in the works. Another issue that will be studied will be the different complaints that come in regards to the Bookstore ordering fewer textbooks than needed. Following the issue with Mark Beudert the committee will see the possibility of changing the bylaws of the senate so that SPF's could represent their department and also to enhance the presence of SPF's in the Senate. Finally the committee will look into the chain governance of the University.

The benefits committee reported a meeting with HR where the changes on the health coverage were discussed. The Senate will get a full update of that in the October meeting. They will also look into the issues of the new scheme of retiree's health insurance. Finally they will meet with John Affleck-Graves to discuss the economic situation of the University and about the salary raises of Faculty.

Finally the Student affairs committee reported that they will be paying attention to possible problems with student behavior in class so they asked the senators to report any of these problems to members of the committee.

Two main questions are posed:

- 1) Have you seen a change in the behavior of students during the years you have been at Notre Dame?
- 2) If you came from another university have you noticed differences in behavior of the ND students compared to the students from the other university from where you came?

The committee would appreciate feedback on these issues.

Keith Rigby suggested that senators should be proactive on any issues that they consider important.

Judy Fox urged senators to get feedback from their departments.

Keith Rigby will send a summary of topics covered in the meeting so that senators can send it to their bodies.

Several positions need to be filled:

- The traffic appeals committee needs a representative; John Robinson was urged to find a senator from his committee.

- The Student Affairs campus life council needs a representative.

- Paul McGinn will serve on the Bookstore advisory committee.

- Brandon Ashfeld and Dianne Pinderhughes will be representatives in the Student Senate.

- Salma Saddawi will be serving on the ECDC committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.