

Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting University of Notre Dame
October 4 2016
136 DeBartolo Hall

Attendees: Matthew Capdevielle, Dominic Chaloner, Annie Coleman, Chuck Dittbennes, Bridgette Drummond, Mary Frandsen, David Galvin, John Gaski, Nasir Ghiaseddin, Michael Hemler, Daniel Hopkinson, Daniel Johnson, Randy Kozel, Beyerlein Kraig, Byung-Joo Lee, Hai Lin, Chao-Shin Liu, Adam Martin, Paul McGinn, Sylvia Ptasinska, Jeanne Romero-Severson, Anna Simon, Phil Sloan, Marsha Stevenson, David Thomas, Joe Urbany, Meng Wang, Hannelore Weber, Xiaoshan Yang, Samir Younes, Guagjian Zhang

Excused: Matt Bloom, Ben Heller, Howard Lanser, Natalie Porter, Chris Pratt, Ben Radcliff, Aaron Striegel, Shauna Williams

1. Opening prayer: Jeanne Romero-Severson (JRS), Chair of the Senate.
2. Introduced new Senate Administrative Assistant: Lawrence Koepfle (lkoepfl1@nd.edu).
3. Minutes of the 3 May 2016 and 13 September 2016 meetings were submitted for approval by the senate. No corrections or additions were needed. Motion moved, seconded, and approved.
4. Chair's Report
 - a. Appointments. After brief description of responsibilities, JRS asked for volunteers to serve as senate representatives on the Bookstore Committee and Campus Life Council representative.
 1. Bookstore Committee representative: David Galvin, Dept. of Mathematics.
 2. Campus Life Council representatives: Sylvia Ptasinska, Dept. of Physics and Dominic Chaloner, Dept. of Biological Sciences.
 - b. Committee on the Evaluation of Teaching update. JRS gave an overview of the committee, explaining the context and what had been done, including analysis of all Class Instructor Feedback (CIF, but not TCE) data since its inception. Several issues had become apparent about which the committee were unanimous in agreement. These issues, along with recommendations about how CIFs should be used, will be shared in a report that is still a work in progress.

Q: When will the report be released?

A: Draft will be generated by the end of the semester, when the focus will be on the educating the dept. chairs and college deans about CIFs, along with recommendations about what other things that should go into the evaluation of teaching.

Q: What about administrators given that depts. are better positioned to evaluate the content of teaching? Dept. and college evaluation of teaching is fine but this is perhaps more of a concern about the Administration level (i.e., Provost Office).

A: How this would be addressed would be decided later.

Q: Are the report findings confidential at this moment?

A: Transparency is important but this is delicate issue, so although information has been shared with the senate, it would be appreciated that specifics were not shared outside the senate at this time.

Q: Were there any other factors that were important across units other than those already mentioned?

A: Those two factors were the most important.

Q: Depending upon recommendations, how would guidelines be generated?

A: Considered opinion is that the various things already stated will be addressed in the future.
5. Committee Reports
 - a. Benefits. Not too much will be changing but a complete overview and update will be provided tonight by Denise Murphy. Proposal talked about last time has been approved. There are a few items or issues that will come up in the future, including dental plan changes; provision of record keeping for costs of benefits today and in the past (some universities are suing because the cost is too much), and parking.
 - b. Administrative affairs. Daniel Johnson, Hesburgh Library, is new chair. Nothing to report at this time. JRS highlighted the importance of the committee considering whether SPFs can represent depts in the senate.
 - c. Academic affairs. JRS mentioned that a chair needs to be recruited for the committee. Shared that a report on the CIFs committee was given similar to what had been given to the whole senate. In the future, the Academic affairs committee will have to develop a resolution on the core curriculum revision.
 - d. Student affairs. Organizational orientation was worthwhile and the committee is ready to identify issues to discuss.
 - e. Provost fellow. Mary Ann McDowell (MAM) highlighted that one important item is the communication of senate business. Provost has asked dept. chairs to include as an agenda item senate dept. representatives sharing what the senate has been discussing. Therefore, wanted to encourage dept. reps to speak at faculty meetings. Also, asked the senate to consider asking the Provost to attend and make a formal presentation in order to facilitate communication.

Q: Is the Provost available?

A: Yes, he would make himself available.

Q: What about every meeting?

A: Provost thought it would be most productive to make a formal presentation but did not think there was time to do that during every senate meeting.

Following motion was proposed: *Make it a practice to invite the provost to the first faculty senate meeting of each semester to address faculty senate and answer questions submitted to him ahead.* Asked whether there was need for discussion but none was needed. Motion was seconded, and then approved.

6. Presentation and discussion

a. Benefits Update by Denise Murphy, Director of Benefits and Wellness

Overall, very few changes. However, what's new includes children being covered up to the age of 26; hearing-aid benefit increased; dentist plan upgraded, and life insurance modified.

Reminders of the existing plans - including with respect to drug prescriptions;

Highlighted several things about the current healthcare benefits, including:

Castlight - a tool for healthcare pricing that Human Resources is trying to promote. Helps with understanding the pricing of different services and to be more aware of the costs of medicine.

Monthly premiums - not changed very much.

Wellness center – highly used and has a reduced copay.

Health screenings - several incentives to participate, including savings, but wanted to encourage everyone to participate given that health screenings are down.

Delta dental – especially evidence based dentistry for participants with specific conditions that would entitle individuals to more regular services.

Eyemed - dependent eligibility until 26.

Life insurance - no major changes, but some changes in the process.

Flexible spending - no changes.

Critical illness and accident insurance plans – some specific changes.

Reminded about Open enrollment (October 18 - Nov 4), and again about the health screenings; health advocate program (to help with healthcare or insurance issues), and the Lifeworks Employee Assistance Program.

Q: Is there additional assistance for emeriti?

A: Human resources is working on additional information for retirees.

Q: What happens if someone forgets to enroll?

A: This year the system will default to what individuals already had, except for flexible spending accounts.

Q: What about the problem of the cost of using out-of-network testing?

A: Important issue because of the extra cost when doctors use outside of network testing over which the patient has little or no control. The way to deal with this is through the appeals process. ND will go to the providers to negotiate to resolve it. Sometime the costs are justifiable but often it is not.

Denise Murphy was thanked for her presentation, which will be posted to the faculty senate website as a pdf.

b. NDI by Michael Pippenger, Vice president and Associate Provost for Internationalization.

Gave verbal presentation without powerpoint. Started with academic interests and background at Columbia University, and described the process by which he was hired by the university. Explained reasons why came to Notre Dame and emphasized that what he felt was most important about his background was his experience with global education.

Discussed what he has been up to since coming to Notre Dame about a month ago, including meeting with anyone with connections to NDI.

JRS highlighted the distinction between the college council resolution and that no resolution was actually passed by faculty senate.

Discussed plans for the future, some of the issues and how to leverage existing infrastructure and faculty expertise.

Ended his presentation by asking for questions.

Q: How would NDI interact with the new Keough School?

A: NDI can support the kind of research that will help put Keough School on the map. Overall, this will be addressed by how different units work together, but NDI responsibility will be to integrate the things that different units are doing. This should be considered an opportunity. No specific strategy at this time but NDI is committed to working with everyone, with NDI as the center-point.

Q: Asked about the issue of 'island' international programs, and the importance of not replicating what students get in South Bend.

A: Gave the example of the Pueblo, Mexico pre-med program of what the ideal should be. Agreed that it was important to be both taught by and work with people from the host country, and NDI needs to facilitate this. London program was critiqued as not being ideal in this respect but is working to address these issues. Moreover, there are many ways to get students outside the bubble.

Described how Columbia University students to take courses in the language of the host country for several semesters. Highlighted the challenges to being able to take a course given in the host language, such as Chinese, because students are not linguistically prepared. Overall, a complicated issue. Columbia students mostly go to somewhere else than English speaking countries. Good thing to have a language requirement. But there was something arbitrary about the language requirement. There are also the complexities of student course load. Described the experience of a student who followed a specific path because of the nature of the language requirement.

JRS encouraged NDI to solicit the opinion from the College of Arts and Letters given the significant expertise available there.

JRS asked David Thomas, Dept. of English, for the perspective of the College of Arts and Letters. Responded that it was important to be cognizant of the bubble culture and to get them away from other Americans while they were studying abroad.

Q: Can NDI also be attentive to what is happening in South Bend? What happens if student spends their whole 4 years in South Bend?

A: But similarly what about international students that come to South Bend from other countries. Unfortunately, international students tend to stick together while they are here at ND.

Michael Pippenger was thanked for his presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm

Minutes submitted by

Dominic T. Chaloner, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Co-Secretary