

University of Idaho
FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES

2002-2003 Meeting #2, Tuesday, September 10, 2002

Present: Bitterwolf (chair), Wagner (vice-chair), Bailey, Baillargeon, Chandler, Fairchild, Haggart (w/o vote), Lillard, McCaffrey, McClure, McGuire, Nelson, Netzer, Pikowsky, Johnson (for Pitcher) (w/o vote), Rinker, Schekler

Absent: Daley-Laursen, Guenther, Hong **Observers:** 1

Call to Order. A quorum being present, Faculty Council Chair, Professor Thomas Bitterwolf, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. in the Brink Hall Faculty Lounge.

Minutes. The council accepted the minutes of meeting #21 of the 2001-2002 Faculty Council and meeting #1 of the 2002-2003 Faculty Council, both held on April 30, 2002, as distributed.

Chair's Report. Chair Bitterwolf welcomed the Faculty Council to its second meeting, but the first meeting of the 2002-2003 academic year. He commented positively on the decision of U of Idaho President Robert Hoover to override his earlier resignation announcement and stay at the university. He said that Hoover will be at the September 24th council meeting for a question and answer session. Bitterwolf noted that the budget picture for the state of Idaho has not improved, but at least education was spared from the last round of budget cuts. He also announced that the Office of the Faculty Secretary was in the process of reviewing data on the number of faculty members in each college, now that the internal reorganizations had been completed. A report to the council concerning the correct number of Faculty Council representatives from each college will be forthcoming.

Provost's Report. Vice Provost Leonard Johnson reported to the council for Provost Pitcher, who is in Boise meeting with the Presidents' Council. He provided the council with 10th day official U of Idaho enrollment figures. Overall university enrollment is up about 3 percent – 356 students. When these numbers are translated to FTE's the increase is 4.4% for undergraduate students and 9% for graduate students. Over half of the increases represent enrollment at off-campus instructional centers. The number of credits generated are also up 8% at the undergraduate level and 7% for graduate courses. Johnson praised the hard work of students, staff, and faculty who made these increases come about. He also acknowledged the sacrifices that will have to be made because of fewer faculty members to teach classes and severely reduced departmental academic budgets.

Johnson responded to several councilor questions by making the following observations:

- the growth in enrollment was evenly divided between on and off-campus instructional centers
- despite the increase in graduate student enrollments, no enrollment work level budget adjustments can be made this year because of the budget crisis
- departmental dollar attribution associated with increased enrollments will be made through the responsibility centers
- the number of tenure-track teachers is down from last year – many teaching positions are being filled by adjunct and temporary instructors
- the student-faculty ratio will probably be 20 to 1 or even higher this academic year
- colleges and departments degrees and programs will continue to be evaluated on viability and efficiency – despite it being a “numbers game,” it is the combination of the number of majors in a program and also how many students outside the program are reached with the courses being taught that indicate viability and efficiency

Faculty Secretary's Annual Report. Faculty Secretary, Professor Emeritus Peter A. Haggart, provided the council with what has become an annual report outlining the activities of the Faculty Council during the previous academic year. The report shows the action(s) taken on each agenda item, as well as outlining other decisions, requiring a vote, made by the council. The report also outlines subject matter of presentations made to the council during the year. He said that the report helps provide an accurate historical record of the work of the council.

Revised FY2003 Holiday Schedule. The council reviewed the recently revised university holiday schedule. Thanks to the persistence of Councilor Pikowsky, the administration made changes in the schedule so that non-faculty exempt employees would not be charged a day of annual leave for what should be a holiday.

Committee on Committees Report. The Committee on Committees report was presented by last year's committee chair Thomas Bitterwolf. The council was provided with an updated report on committee assignments made since their last meeting. The committee assignments were accepted by the council without comment.

FC-02-003. Proposed Changes in the Function and/or Structure Statements of the Honors Program Committee, Officer Education Committee, Juntura, and Borah Foundation Committee. Professor Bitterwolf provided the council with background information on the changes to committee structure and function statements. Each change originated with the affected committee and was reviewed and adopted by the Committee on Committees. Coming as a seconded motion, **FC-03-003 was adopted** by unanimous voice vote.

Sabbatical Leave Evaluation Committee Report. The June 20, 2002, report and recommendation from the Sabbatical Leave Evaluation Committee (and approved by the provost) was reviewed by the council. Coming as a seconded motion, the recommended addition to the sabbatical leave roster was **adopted** by unanimous voice vote.

Confirmation of the Secretary to the Faculty Council. Upon the recommendation of Chair Bitterwolf it was **moved and seconded** (Nelson, McClure) that **Peter A. Haggart be confirmed as Secretary to the Faculty Council for the 2002-2003 academic year.** The motion was **adopted** with a *resounding* (emphasis added by the council) unanimous voice vote.

Election to the Budget Liaison Committee. Chair Bitterwolf opened the floor to nominations of a member of the council class of 2005 to serve on the Budget Liaison Committee. Councilors Bailey and McGuire were nominated for the position. **Councilor Jeff Bailey was elected by a majority ballot.**

Appointment to the Campus Planning Committee. During the balloting process for the Budget Liaison Committee, **Councilor Robert Rinker volunteered** to serve as the representative of the council class of 2005 on the Campus Planning Committee.

Appointment to the Subcommittee on Administration and Governance (NASC). Chair Bitterwolf asked for volunteers to work with past council chair Ron Smelser on a NASC accreditation subcommittee reviewing administration and governance. This needs to be an experienced council member. No volunteers came forward so Bitterwolf asked the council to think about it and he would bring it up again at the next meeting.

Secretary of the Faculty Nominating Committee. The council was in receipt of a letter from the Secretary of the Faculty, Peter A. Haggart, submitting his resignation from that position effective at the end of the 2002-2003 academic year. Pursuant to the requirements of the Faculty Constitution, a five member nominating committee was appointed to carry out the process of seeking and recommending candidates for the position. Professor Haggart told the council that after a conversation with the provost, he and Professor Douglas Q. Adams and Professor Thomas Bitterwolf were delegated to write a revised job description based on past experience and future expectations for that faculty position. **Councilors McClure, Bitterwolf, Wagner, Bailey, and Pikowsky volunteered and were appointed to the nominating committee, which will be chaired by the provost.** Professor Haggart will attend the meetings in an advisory role. Bitterwolf told the council that it was his intention to have someone appointed before the end of the semester so that the new secretary could work with the outgoing secretary.

FC-03-001. Reconsideration of the changes to *Faculty-Staff Handbook* Section 3910, Dismissal of Faculty. This agenda item is the same one passed by the council last spring, but returned to the council for further consideration by vote of the general faculty in May. Discussion on the changes revealed that all of the changes were needed because the SBOE/Regents had changed their policy regarding dismissal of faculty members. It was noted by the secretary that it was a "Catch 22" situation because board policy would always over-ride council policy. Many of the changes came in the form of a choice of words, such as using the words "adequate cause" to replace "good cause."

A secondary discussion centered on the use of the term "immorality" in Part A-1, where examples of behavior that could lead to dismissal for "adequate cause" were listed. Many councilors felt that the term was too vague and that actions considered to be immoral would be adequately covered by the other examples given in that section; such as criminality and dishonesty. Although there was some concern expressed about the interpretation and political fallout of doing so, it was **moved and seconded** (McCaffrey, McClure) **to amend FSH 3910 by removing the word "immorality" from Part A-1.** The motion was **adopted** by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion then turned to part D-4 which contained the following changed sentence: “*The notice from the president must be in writing and will be personally served on the employee or be sent by ~~certified mail, return requested~~ first-class postage pre-paid to the last known address on file for the faculty member, ~~directed to the designated address of the faculty member.~~”*

Some council members were hard-pressed to know why first-class delivery of a dismissal notice would be better than certified mail. It was **moved and seconded** (McGuire, McClure) **to table FC-03-001 until such time as the university counsel could appear before the council and explain the reasoning behind such changes.** The motion was **adopted** by unanimous voice vote.

FC-03-002. Reconsideration of the change to *Faculty-Staff Handbook* Section 5400, Employment Agreement Concerning Patents and Copyrights. This agenda item was removed from the agenda by the chair. Bitterwolf said that the proposed change had been returned to the Research Council for further consideration, and would return to the council at a later date.

Political Candidate Forum. Chair Bitterwolf reviewed a memorandum that he had sent to the council suggesting that the Faculty Council, Staff Affairs Committee, and UI student government jointly sponsor a candidate forum in October. This suggestion came after receiving several requests from state office candidates to appear before the council. Although many council members agreed that this would solve that problem, there was some concern that local office candidates should be afforded the same opportunity. Some council members also wondered why the candidates would want to appear before the council. It was suggested that since education funding was a central issue in most state campaigns, that faculty leadership would be an audience that would be sought out by the candidates. It was **moved and seconded** (Wagner, Baillargeon) **that the Faculty Council, in conjunction with the Staff Affairs Committee and Associated Students of the University of Idaho, sponsor a candidate forum on the campus in October. If any one of the other two sponsoring groups fails to approve the forum concept, the council will not sponsor the forum.** The motion was **adopted** by majority voice vote, with one abstention.

Faculty Secretary’s Report Publication Change. Professor Haggart informed the council that the traditional *Faculty Secretary’s Report*, which had been published during the school year on a weekly basis for many years, would be reduced to a monthly single page publication containing highlights of council actions. He said that meeting minutes and other council documents are available at the council website and there seemed to be no need to continue the costly publishing of the minutes for the faculty on paper.

Adjournment. It was **moved and seconded** (Lillard, McClure) **to adjourn.** The motion was **adopted** by unanimous voice vote, and Chair Bitterwolf adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m. – calling council’s attention to their having concluded business a half hour before the usual time of adjournment.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Faculty Council will be held on **Tuesday, September 17th** at 3:30 pm in the Brink Hall Faculty Lounge.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter A. Haggart
Secretary of the Faculty Council