

University of Idaho
FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES

2002-2003 Meeting #5, Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Present: Bitterwolf (chair), Wagner (vice-chair), Bailey, Baillargeon, Daley Laursen, Fairchild, Haggart (w/o vote), Hong, Lillard, McClure, McGuire, Nelson, Netzer, Pikowsky, Pitcher (w/o vote), Rahim, Rinker, Schekler

Absent: Chandler, Guenther, McCaffrey, Reese **Observers:** 1

Call to Order. A quorum being present, Faculty Council Chair, Professor Thomas Bitterwolf, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in the Brink Hall Faculty Lounge.

Minutes. The council accepted the minutes of the October 1, 2002, meeting as distributed.

Chair's Report. Chair Bitterwolf reminded the council that the candidate forum will be held on October 16th at 7 pm in the Idaho Commons food court. Many of the local and state-wide candidates for elective office, or their representatives will be attending the forum. The final line-up will be announced sometime this week.

Faculty Secretary's Report. Faculty Secretary, Peter Haggart, reported to the council that **General Policy Report #20** will be published at the Faculty Council website and available for viewing or downloading beginning October 11th. An announcement will appear in the next University Register alerting faculty members to its publication and the deadline for submitting a petition to stop any item from going forward to the SBOE/Regents. This policy report covers items adopted by the council during its first four meetings.

Provost's Report. Provost Brian Pitcher made the following announcements:

- the SBOE/Regents dealt with or will be dealing with the following items:
 - Eastern Idaho Technical College attempted to have the word "Technical" removed from their name, which the board refused to do - this raised the question and will prompt future discussions of developing a matrix for the delivery of instructional programs state-wide.
 - there was a second reading of the new board policy on the process of submitting academic program changes to the board - department administrators should familiarize themselves with the new procedures
 - the board is continuing to discuss education in terms of reform, efficiency, standards, and accountability
 - the board is concerned with the issues surrounding a students' transition from high school to the next higher level of instruction
- the corner-stone for the new "living and learning center" was laid today - phase one of the project will be ready for occupancy next fall
- several college advisory boards will be on the campus this week
- the College of Law "Bellwood Lecture" is this week
- a budget restructuring information meeting will be held this week with university leadership

NASC Representative. Chair Bitterwolf announced that Professor Wendy McClure would be the council representative for the governance task force preparing accreditation materials. Her place on the Faculty Secretary Nominating Committee will be taken by Professor Mark McGuire.

Report from U of Idaho President Hoover. U of Idaho President Bob Hoover took a moment to bring the council up-to-date on his health since he had been diagnosed with prostate cancer. He will be taking a paid 6 month administrative leave beginning March 1st. During that time he will undergo an operation to remove the cancer. Everyone concerned with his health and recovery thought that the operation should not be undertaken until he had a chance to step away from his administrative responsibilities and concentrate on healing and recovery. The council expressed its concern and best wishes, and the president responded by reminding his colleagues of the importance of medical examinations to catch cancer at its earliest stage.

Hoover then turned his and the council's attention to an overview of the progress that has been made during the past six years in meeting goals that had been suggested to him by members of the SBOE/Regents when he was hired. The board's concerns included:

- developing a strategic plan for the university
- turning around a declining enrollment trend triggered by fewer Idaho high school graduates, the “party school” image, and the substantial increases in out-of-state tuition and fees
- making the U of Idaho a distinguished and recognized research university
- improving outreach programs and changing the attitude about collaboration with other Idaho institutions of higher education

President Hoover felt that all of these concerns had been addressed during his tenure, and he proceeded to explain to the council the progress that had been made while reminding them that these changes had come about because of the dedicated work of faculty, staff, administrators, and students at the U of Idaho.

Some of the long term goals and achievements for enrollment at the U of Idaho are:

<u>Long Term Goals</u>	<u>Achievements</u>
• 2% growth per year in undergraduates	• undergrad growth 3.7% last year – 3% this year
• increase engineering and science freshman students faster than rest of university	• 7.5% growth last year – 6% growth this year
• increase graduate enrollment faster than undergrad	• graduate growth 4.4 % last year – 8.9% this year
• top 25% of freshman class at or above 27 ACT	• 25% of freshman class ACT is 27 or higher
• get average gpa of freshman class to 3.5	• average gpa last year 3.46 – 3.42 this year
• retention rate from fresh. to soph. year at 85%	• retention last year 80% - 78.8% this year
• increase racial/ethnic minority students to more than their percentage in state population	• growth is up 5% last year and up 11.4% this year
• increase international students to 10% of total students	• international students up 18% last year and 15% this year
• 5% or more of the freshman class UI scholars	• 3.3% (206) last year – 3.02% (217) this year
• 3% or more freshman national merit finalists	• 9 finalists last year – 8 this year
• attract other scholarship winners to campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Fulbright Scholars • 2 Goldwater Scholars • 3 Udall Scholars • 3 Rotary International Scholars • 1 USA Today Academic All-American • 1 Society of Women Engineers Scholar • 1 Cooke Scholarship • 2 Phi Eta Sigma National Scholarships

Hoover then reviewed for the council enrollment achievements in student “head count,” “FTE,” “credit hours,” “distribution,” and placed emphasis on the steady increase in “total weighted resident credit hours.” That category is what the university is “paid for” and has shown a steady yearly increase from 530,000 in FY94 to slightly over 650,000 in FY02. Hoover said that this category is a true measurement of the student impact on an institution of higher learning, as it correctly gives added weight to credits taken in upper division classes and by graduate students. He also noted that the U of Idaho student/faculty ratio is steadily climbing, and because of early retirements and budget cuts it will reach 20 to 1 next year.

Changing the subject to funding sources, Hoover noted that the U of Idaho will have some difficulty maintaining its current growth rate in sponsored contracts and grants. However, the “UI Vision” fundraising campaign, which had set a goal of raising \$100 million in 6 years, has actually raised \$120 million in just 4 years.

Following his formal presentation, UI President Hoover fielded questions from the members of the council. Hoover and the council discussed the following issues:

- methods used to count students at each state university
- equity issues relative to the basic budgets for each institution
- the pluses and minuses associated with “work load adjustments” – these adjustments favor the U of Idaho, but are not being funded during the present budget crisis

- retention of students – ways to achieve a higher retention rate by:
 - calling students to find out why they left, and perhaps getting them back
 - having residential dorms with “themes” – like an “engineering” living residence
 - matching the housing style to students’ needs
 - having a well constructed core curriculum
 - having an excellent advising system
- board budget recommendations – including:
 - maintenance of current operations
 - health care costs
 - competitive compensation
 - funding the “work load adjustment” formula
 - making adjustments for institutional funding equity
 - re-starting capital funding for buildings
- the state budget crisis and outlook – it is gloomy but public education is now seen as a priority
- efforts at collaboration among state higher education institutions – the challenge is overcoming a long history of not cooperating or collaborating
- using bonding as a method of financing buildings
- estimates that indicate the U of Idaho is actually growing during the budget crisis – a forecast of a 2.5% enrollment growth next year
- student fee policy – needs to be studied and standardized at some percentage level based on a decision of how much of the cost of education should be covered by student fees
- a disparity in how different academic disciplines are weighted in the state funding formulas – keeping the new college (that has fewer grant fund prospects/resources) from becoming a “poor cousin”

Hoover noted that growth can happen, but there are many constraints. There are many young productive faculty members who are bringing grants and contracts to the U of Idaho at a rate never seen at the university before. But there is also a severe lack of laboratory space and support. These two factors will eventually “collide.” He also called attention to the need to rethink our approaches to instruction. How can we change the way that we “deliver” education to the “consumer?” The goal is effective teaching at a lower cost. We need to examine what it is that we are doing well, and concentrate our energies on funding those areas.

President Hoover concluded his remarks to the council by noting that his original decision to leave the U of Idaho was not based on any unhappiness with the university. It had more to do with his concern over the future of the university. He said that his resignation statement and its public discussion focused attention on the plight of higher education in Idaho. Suddenly higher education once again became a priority. He said that he thoroughly enjoys the U of Idaho, finding his time here to be the most exhilarating time of his life. He predicted that we may come out of this present crisis healthier than when we went in.

Adjournment. It was **moved and seconded** (Lillard, Nelson) to adjourn. The motion was **adopted** by unanimous voice vote, and Chair Bitterwolf adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Faculty Council will be held on **October 15, 2002**.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter A. Haggart
Secretary of the Faculty Council