

University of Idaho  
**FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**2002-2003 Meeting #19, Tuesday, April 8, 2003**

**Present:** Bitterwolf (chair), Wagner (vice-chair), Bailey, Chandler, Cloud, Daley Laursen, Guenthner, Haggart (w/o vote), Hatch (w/o vote), Hong, Lillard, McCaffrey, McClure, McGuire, Nelson, Pikowsky, Reese, Rinker, Stegner  
**Absent:** Baillargeon, Fairchild, Schekler **Observers:** 8

**Call to Order.** A quorum being present, Faculty Council Chair, Professor Thomas Bitterwolf, called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. in the Brink Hall Faculty Lounge.

**Minutes.** The council accepted the minutes of the April 1, 2003 meeting as distributed.

**Chair's Report.** Chair Bitterwolf reported that he and Vice Chair Francis Wagner had been invited to join the university's core management team as full members. This team reports directly to the acting president. Bitterwolf thanked the administration for providing this important access for faculty input into critical issues affecting the U of Idaho. He also reported that the U of Idaho's Fiscal Emergency Committee will be called back into session on Thursday to deal with items and issues that will and are having an impact on the fiscal health of the university.

**Acting Provost's Report.** Acting Provost Chuck Hatch answered questions directed to him by members of the council concerning the reasons for calling the Fiscal Emergency Committee into session. Hatch said that there was no specific event that caused the administration to reactivate the committee. He noted that the multi-year financial plan needed to be reexamined in light of possible legislative budget actions and fee-setting proposals coming from the SBOE/Regents. We simply can not wait until the board and the legislature act. We must talk about possible financial scenarios now with a broad-based group of university personnel. Hatch said that institutional cash reserves are being stretched to the absolute limit and that situation prohibits flexibility in dealing with budget cuts.

In response to a councilor's question Hatch said that the U of Idaho Foundation would have its refinancing plan in place by June 30<sup>th</sup>. However he was unable to answer the question of how much this plan would help the university's general fund. He said that details of the problems facing the university would be presented first to the Fiscal Emergency Committee and then to the university community.

Hatch also reported on the SBOE/Regent's interest in reviewing the delivery of post-secondary education in the state of Idaho. He said that the board is not so much interested in re-writing the role and mission statements of the institutions as it is in looking at the delivery of higher education off-campus. He said that the meetings with other provosts has been productive and progress has been made in looking at partnerships and collaborations in the delivery of courses and programs across the state.

**Nominees for Secretary of the Faculty.** Chair Bitterwolf reported that the sub-committee charged with identifying candidates to fill the position of faculty secretary had completed its work and was ready to send its list and findings to the acting provost. The following faculty members were nominated for the faculty secretary position:

- Professor Jeff Harkins from the College of Business and Economics
- Professor Ron Smelser from the College of Engineering
- Professor and Dean Emeritus Sheldon Vincenti from the College of Law

It was **moved and seconded** (Lillard, McCaffrey) **to ratify these nominations** and to instruct the council chair to forward those names and the findings of the sub-committee to the acting provost. The motion was **adopted** by unanimous voice vote.

**Report from the Committee on Committees.** Faculty Council Vice Chair Francis Wagner provided the council with function and structure changes for the following university-level committees:

- University Committee on General Education, the addition of the chair of the University Curriculum Committee as a non-voting member, a revised function statement outlining the reporting process for UCGE actions, and a revised structure reflecting the current structure of the university core curriculum.

- University Curriculum Committee, the addition of the University Core Curriculum Coordinator as a non-voting member.
- Teacher Education Coordinating Committee, revising the structure language to reflect the dissolution of the College of Letters and Science and the creation of the College of Letters, Arts and Social Science and the College of Science (providing membership for each college).
- Safety and Loss-Control Committee, revising its structure to include the U of Idaho's risk management officer as a voting member of the committee.

After a brief discussion of the changes to the University Curriculum Committee and the University Committee for General Education, the **seconded motion** from the Committee on Committees was **adopted** by unanimous voice vote.

**FC-02-042, Proposed Changes in UI Catalog Section J-3 Regarding the University Core Curriculum.** The council was in receipt of a **seconded motion** from the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) outlining changes to Section J-3 of the U of Idaho catalog. Core Coordinator Professor William Voxman and UCC Chair Professor John Hammel provided the council with the background for the proposed revisions. These revisions were drawn up with input from the University Committee for General Education (UCGE), the UCC, and the Office of the Registrar.

**J-3. Subject Requirements (Core Curriculum).** A university education is a preparation both for living and for making a living. It offers an opportunity not only to lay the foundations of a career, but also to develop the mind to its highest potential, to cultivate the imagination as well as the power to reason, and to gain the intellectual curiosity that makes education a life-long enterprise. A central component of this preparation is the requirement that a student working toward a baccalaureate degree must complete ~~33-36 credits of the necessary~~ course work in the four categories described below. This requirement is to be satisfied by earning the minimum number of credits specified for each category. (Transfer students have two options for fulfilling this requirement; these are described under "General Education Requirements for Transfer Students" in the Undergraduate Admission section in Part 2 of this catalog). **Courses that fulfill requirements in each category are reviewed each year and the list is updated in the Spring. Students and advisors are encouraged to check the list when it is published in the Spring to be aware of any additional courses that have been added to meet specific requirements.** Note: ~~- Though a given course may be listed under more than one category, it may be used to satisfy the requirement in only one category; Remedial courses may not be used to satisfy any of this requirement.~~ **Degree-seeking students must be enrolled in Engl 090, 101, or 102 in their first semester in residence and in each subsequent semester until they have passed Engl 102. They must also be enrolled in Math 108 or in a course that meets the core requirement in mathematics, statistics, or computer science in their first year in residence and in each subsequent semester until the core requirements in mathematics, statistics, or computer science has been satisfied.**

J-3-a. Communication (5-7 cr). [\[no changes\]](#)

Public Speaking. [\[no changes\]](#)

Written English. [\[no changes\]](#)

J-3-b. Natural and Applied Science (8 cr which include two accompanying labs OR 7 cr which includes ~~a CORES 204~~ a CORES 205-298 course and one course with lab). The purpose of this requirement is to develop a better understanding of the physical and biological world by learning some of the principles that explain the natural phenomena of the universe, the experimental method used to derive those principles, and their applications.

~~CORES 204~~CORES 205-298, Integrated Science (3 or 4 cr)  
[\[no other change in course listings in this section\]](#)

J-3-c. Mathematics, Statistics, or Computer Science (3 cr). [\[no changes\]](#)

J-3-d. General Core Studies (GCS). 18 credits including the following:

(1) **Core Discovery:** ~~One course from CORE 404103-149 or and one course from CORE 402153-199 (at least one course).~~

(2) **Cluster Courses:** Three courses (minimum 8 credits) chosen from one ~~UCGE (University Committee on General Education)~~ approved core cluster. (Students in the University Honors Program are not restricted to the core cluster courses, but may elect to choose Honors courses.) The three courses must include ~~at least two different disciplines, one upper-division course and must include one upper-division course, and can include no more than one 100-level course; at least two different disciplines. CORE courses may not be used to satisfy the discipline requirement.~~

(3) **International Course:** One ~~UCGE~~ approved international course with a contemporary international or global focus.

(4) **Humanities/Social Sciences:** 14 credits in a combination of humanities and social science courses with a minimum of six credits in humanities and six credits in social sciences.

Additional credits to total the required 18 credits may be selected from courses in any core cluster, the international course listing and the ~~UCGE~~ approved listing of ~~general elective core-fine arts and capstone~~ courses.

~~Core Discovery courses and the cluster courses may also be international courses as well as humanities or social science courses.~~ A course may be used toward more than one of the above requirements but may count only once toward the required 18 credits. ~~Courses used to satisfy requirements in J-3 a, J-3 b, and J-3 c may not be used toward the above requirements.~~

Councilor Chandler renewed his objection to the core science courses being able to provide science majors with a less restrictive path to completing their cluster course requirements at what he believed was the expense of academic breadth; Councilor McCaffrey countered this argument with the notion that science majors were still required to take 14 credits of humanities and social science, and that courses a student used in the cluster requirement might be used in that fashion by any academic major.

Professor Hammel said that the basic concept behind the proposed changes was to allow flexibility in course selection by students without limiting the breadth of academic exposure in the core curriculum.

Upon the conclusion of a brief and informative discussion period, the motion was **adopted** by unanimous voice vote.

**Policy Regarding Student E-Mail Addresses.** Dan Davenport, Director of Admissions and Student Financial Aid Services, reported to the council on the work of a task force that had been established in August of 2001 to discuss the problems and find solutions to the use of e-mail by university personnel to communicate with students.

The central problem with using e-mail for communication of time sensitive and vital information was that students were using e-mail addresses from popular commercial internet firms. More often than not, because of e-mail account storage limits, e-mail would be rejected or message attachments would be seen by the computer server as a possible virus.

The task force is recommending that every university student [*defined as a degree or non-degree seeking person admitted to and attending the U of Idaho in the state of Idaho*] be assigned a U of Idaho e-mail account that would be their official e-mail address for university personnel to use to communicate information. Furthermore, the task force recommended that students be held “responsible” for all information sent to them via their university assigned e-mail account.” The U of Idaho plans to implement this e-mail requirement on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Davenport said that the task force had worked with faculty, staff, and student focus groups in developing the policy. He noted that the introduction this spring of the university’s web-based e-mail system “Vandal Mail” allows the university to put such a policy into action. A web-based system allows students, or any university employee to access their e-mail from any location in the world. The new e-mail system also offers considerably more storage space for each e-mail account (compared to commercial internet services), as well as better protection from spam and computer virus bugs. There were no concerns expressed that requiring university e-mail accounts for all students would overload the U of Idaho computer system.

While most councilors agreed that this proposal had a lot of favorable attributes and would improve communication between faculty and students, they still had concerns. One concern was the current dial-up access modem system available to students connecting to e-mail accounts from off-campus locations. Davenport said that the university attempted to obtain special rates from local Internet Service Providers (ISP), but found that none were willing to discount their services to U of Idaho students. He also noted that student computing fees are being used to provide students with computer labs and kiosks across the campus. These facilities allow easy access to university e-mail accounts. It was pointed out that the university is actually getting rid of all of its dial-up access modems (by not repairing or replacing them) and instead adding more wired and wireless on-campus access. This is forcing faculty, staff, and students wanting off-campus access to the U of Idaho computer accounts to subscribe to commercial ISP's.

Another concern is the university's ability to create an attractive e-mail system that U of Idaho students would want to use, one that would encourage them to change from popular e-mail providers like Hotmail and Yahoo. Students are carrying either their own or parent's e-mail accounts with them when they come to the U of Idaho. Therefore, they are reluctant to switch to an unfamiliar e-mail system. Councilor Nelson suggested that the U of Idaho look into providing U of Idaho email addresses to students in Idaho's primary and secondary schools.

Students would like a user-friendly system that would allow them to select their own e-mail account identity, instead of one selected by the university. This is a very competitive business, and the U of Idaho will need to be aware of and be able to provide the e-mail account "extras" that students can now get from commercial e-mail services.

**U of Idaho Health Insurance Report.** Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, Pat Sturko, and Director of Benefit Services, Linda Peavey, provided the council with an update on the university's quest to find an affordable health insurance company who can meet the university's health care policy goals and requirements.

Sturko reported that insurance rates with the current insurance provider, Regence BlueShield of Idaho, are rising at a rate that is unacceptable to the university. Despite the fact that the U of Idaho had a clause in its current contract that put a cap on percentage increases at 14%, the company wants to raise the premium rates by 18.1% beginning in FY2004. As a result, the university has asked for new bids for its health insurance (including the present carrier) and may end up awarding the contract to a new firm unless Regence responds with a lower percentage increase.

The U of Idaho is taking this opportunity to look at other options in health insurance. It is investigating whether a fully-funded program (risk taken by the insurance company) or self-insured program (risk taken by the university) would best serve U of Idaho employees, while reducing administrative and/or premium costs. Sturko and Peavey noted that any company providing health insurance would need to have an excellent reputation, allow quality care for U of Idaho employees and their families, and have the ability to establish good client relationships.

The university is also looking at a variety of different health care ideas and health plan elements in seeking a compatible provider for employee health insurance. The insured's ability to select a doctor or specialist of choice, the ability of the university to practice case management, and the possibility of alternative plans for treatment and obtaining prescription drugs, are just a few of the elements under consideration.

If a new insurance carrier or method of insuring is selected, the university will have to provide an open enrollment period for every employee at a time when many faculty employees are away from the campus. The ability to reach all of the university's employees and retirees quickly with accurate detailed information will be important. It will also be necessary to set up an easy to use automated reply system. Sturko and Peavey urged council members to contact them with any ideas and suggestions they had for getting information to and from university employees. Their goal is to make any changes in health insurance as seamless and effortless as possible.

**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 5:06 p.m.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the council will be **April 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter A. Haggart  
Secretary of the Faculty Council