

University of Idaho
FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES

2003-2004 Meeting #4, Tuesday, September 30, 2003

Present: Wagner (Chair), Bailey (Vice-Chair), Baillargeon, Bitterwolf, Burnett, Chandler, Cloud, Dockrey, Exon, Fairchild, Lillard, McGuire, Pikowsky, Pitcher (w/o vote), Reese, Rinker, Stegner, Voxman (w/o vote), Woolston, Young, Zemetra

Absent: Guenthner

Observers: 3

Call to Order. A quorum being present, Faculty Council Chair Wagner, called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. in the Brink Hall Faculty Lounge.

Minutes. The council accepted the minutes of meeting #3 of the 2003-2004 Faculty Council, held on September 30, 2003 as distributed with the exception that over his objections, Air-Wagner was relegated to his former status as Chair Wagner.

Chair's Report. Chair Wagner reported that the SBOE will meet Thursday, October 2, in Lewiston. The UI should not be the focus of the meeting, though there may be questions about an unusually large carry-over (\$13,000,000) and a proposed loan for Kibbie-ASUI Center improvements. Wagner also announced the postponement of a meeting between the Governor and the committee comprised of the chairs of the state's Faculty Councils and Senates. The committee plans to ask the Governor to recommend a 3% salary increase for faculty and staff at the state's colleges and universities. Wagner noted that the current estimate for the state's ending fiscal balance is approximately \$56,000,000, which should obviate the need for additional holdbacks. Finally, he reported briefly on the recent controversial sale of the CNR Clark Fork field campus.

Provost's Report. Provost Pitcher did not anticipate that major issues involving the UI would arise at the next SBOE meeting. He did call the Council's attention to the SBOE decision to move the time frame forward from April to January for determining changes for student matriculation fees. He also announced that groundbreaking for the renovation of the UCC will take place next week, and that occupancy of the remodeled building will likely begin Fall, 2005.

Committee Reports. Vice-chair Bailey reported that the new University Academic Affairs Committee has requested input from the Faculty Council regarding tenure-promotion credit given for the use of technology in the classroom. Provost Pitcher suggested that this might be expanded to include a more general review of criteria for tenure and promotion. Chair Wagner will ask the Faculty Affairs committee to take up this issue and report to the Council. The University Academic Affairs Committee also asked for Faculty Council input on how the UI might place more emphasis on undergraduate research. There was general agreement that this is definitely worth pursuing, and as Dean Burnett remarked, such an emphasis would help UI distinguish itself academically from other institutions. Councilor Bitterwolf observed that a research institution should provide research opportunities for both graduate and undergraduate students and that research is an integral part of the Department of Chemistry's undergraduate program. Some concern, however, was expressed with regard to the lack of adequate lab space to accommodate additional undergraduate research activities. Interim Faculty Secretary Voxman noted that those involved in establishing the new core program were highly supportive of developing senior-level Capstone Courses, both within and outside the majors. These could tie in well with an initiative to increase undergraduate research opportunities. It was recommended that the University Curriculum Committee be asked to provide input regarding the undergraduate research issue.

Health Insurance Update (continued from the September 2 Faculty Council Meeting). Pat Sturko and Linda Peavey resumed their presentation of changes in the UI health insurance plan. Peavey noted that final decisions would be made soon regarding use of Lewiston hospitals, expanded networks, and other pending issues. She said that issuance of a UI health insurance booklet will probably occur by the end of October, once "every single line" has undergone careful scrutiny. Peavey discussed in some detail the do's and don'ts of purchasing prescription drugs. She emphasized that considerable savings can be achieved by carefully examining the various purchase options. Information about this and other health insurance matters is available at www.uidaho.edu/benefits.

ITS Business and Operation Plan. Glenn Wilde, UI Vice-Provost for Library and Information Technology and CIO, presented the Council with a preliminary overview and summary outline of a future ITS Business and Operation Plan. Wilde has worked with Professor Joe Geiger in developing this plan and now is seeking input from a variety of committees and individual students, faculty, and staff regarding its content and implementation. The plan is in response to the recognition that ITS does not have the critical resources to replace and upgrade network and systems technologies critical to the services and operations of the university. Wilde pointed out that studies indicate that ITS now lacks approximately \$500,000 capital budget to maintain and replace current network and systems technologies. Reasons for this shortfall include:

- Unprecedented growth/demand for data services
- Reduction in ITS telephone revenues
- Lack of on-going revenues for maintenance and replacement of one-time allocations for technologies
- Failure of state/institutional budget formulae to account for MCO of maintenance replacement of technology infrastructure
- Increased demand for data communications and other services

Wilde discussed a number of possible fiscal and technology options to address the current situation. The fiscal options include:

- Separate charges for telephone and network data connections
- Renegotiate communications vendor contracts
- Differentiate fees for service and additional requirements (wireless and cellular services)
- Increase student fees for IT facilities
- Reduce the number of data network connections
- Eliminate subsidies for auxiliary enterprises
- Request formula-driven appropriations and MCO for networks, systems, and classroom technologies
- Reallocation of resources

The technology options included:

- Status quo-Do nothing
- Network maintenance and replacement--predicated on a "network data connection fee" per active connection at a monthly estimated cost of \$4.50/active data connection
- Network maintenance and upgrade—provides for the maintenance and upgrade of the entire UI campus network for "VoIP/Hybrid network readiness"; projected cost per connection/per month is \$11.50
- Hybrid/VoIP—provides systematic upgrades to the core campus network based on investment in converged networks to provide voice, data, and video communications; projected increased cost is \$12 per connection.
- Outsourcing

In the next few months Wilde will meet with various campus committees, complete an RFP for VoIP/Hybrid Upgrade, and review vendor responses to the RFP. He hopes to complete the ITS Business and Operations Plan by March, 2004; implementation would begin July, 2004.

Councilor questions and comments centered on ways to generate additional revenues, concern about possibly acquiring more than we need, a potential reduction in the number of student labs, and how to deal with the \$500,000 deficit.

Interested faculty should feel free to contact Vice-Provost Wilde for more information about the development of the new plan or visit the Faculty Council discussion website at http://www.webs.uidaho.edu/facultycouncil/reference_site.htm

Vice-chair Bailey (in Councilor Lillard's absence) moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bitterwolf and approved unanimously. The gavel struck at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Voxman
Interim Secretary of the Faculty Council