

University of Idaho  
**FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**2003-2004 Meeting #10, Tuesday, December 9, 2003**

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

**Absent:** Fairchild, Reese

**Observers:** 7

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

**Minutes.** The council accepted the minutes of meeting #9 of the 2003-2004 Faculty Council, held on December 2, 2003 as distributed with one minor correction.

**Chair's Report.** Chair Wagner reported that he had forwarded to the SBOE the Council's resolution asking for more faculty representation on the Presidential Search Committee, but had not yet received a response. He also asked councilors interested in attending the January 14<sup>th</sup> legislative luncheon in Boise to contact him. Wagner said that he had read the executive summary of the recently released Larry Prince report on the University Place project and thought that it contained few surprises (other than the price tag).

**Provost's Report.** Provost Pitcher introduced ASUI President-elect Isaac Myrhum. Pitcher called attention to the deadline for submitting proposals for new Core Discovery and Integrated Science courses and asked councilors to encourage participation in these courses. He also directed councilors to the Provost's webpage for information concerning possible administrative restructuring. He encouraged councilors to nominate colleagues for excellence in teaching and advising awards. In response to a question from councilor Young who noted that many administrators in the College of Engineering would be on leave next year or retiring soon, the Provost said he would be meeting soon with Engineering faculty and administrators to move forward in replacing Dean Thompson. Chair Wagner observed that an unusual number of new Deans and other administrators will be appointed in the next several months and it is essential that the faculty play an integral role in the selection processes.

**Committee Reports.**

- **FC-04-009, Notice of Intent:** College of Business and Economics/Finance Area. The Council unanimously approved this Notice of Intent to create a new degree option in Finance - Financial Planning. The primary goal of this proposal is for the program to achieve "Certified Program" status with the CFP Board.
- **FC-04-010, Notice of Intent:** College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences/Department of Art & Design. The Council unanimously approved this Notice of Intent to create a B.A. degree in History of Art, Design, and Visual Culture.

**Approval of Summer and Fall Graduates.** The motion (Bitterwolf, Dockrey) to approve the list of summer and fall graduates for 2003 prepared by the registrar, Reta Pikowsky, passed unanimously.

**Sabbatical Leaves.** The motion (Guenther, Rinker) to approve the sabbatical leaves presented by the Provost passed unanimously. In the discussion, questions were raised about the new policy regarding one-semester sabbatical leaves. The chair suggested that this would be an excellent topic for a future Council meeting.

**Multi-year Budget Plan.** Wayland Winstead began the discussion by pointing out the many positive achievements of the institution over the last few years. Among these are: remarkable changes to the physical campus, steadily increasing enrollments, significantly greater grants and contracts, major improvements at off-campus sites, increased student quality, and a more diverse campus. However, the UI currently faces major budgetary problems, as are institutions of higher learning across the country. Winstead noted that the basic funding model for colleges and universities that arose after World War II is no longer viable, and these institutions will have to develop different paradigms in the future. With regard to the UI, Winstead said that to some extent we are dealing with a budget challenge that is of our own making since the UI has opted to: maintain employee health benefits and not increase premiums, pay health benefits for retirees, fund promotions, increase the financial aid budget, fund common good

areas, and not impose a temporary reduction of some salaries. In response to Chair Wagner's question about possible reallocations Winstead said that there had been no significant changes. He also said that the college multi-year budget plans he has seen thus far are credible. However, he cautioned that even with a student fee increase of 10%, the UI is facing serious financial challenges, especially if the legislature fails to provide MCO funding. The UI must deal with rising health and utility costs, retirement benefits, the Idaho Water Center, deferred maintenance, etc., and adequate funding to address these and other areas is problematic. The Provost expressed hope that although the Governor is inclined towards a flat budget, he may consider some selective MCO and CEC increases. Chair Wagner stated that from his meetings with chairs of other university councils and senates, all of the state's institutions are going through a difficult period not just the UI. Winstead pointed out that in addition to the special problems arising from the University Place project, the UI has the oldest physical plant, which has resulted in substantially higher deferred maintenance than that experienced at other institutions.

Winstead said that as a result of the multi-year plans and the UI self-study, we will need to take a good look at our role and mission and decide how to structure programs so that they align more closely with the available resources. The Provost indicated that faculty and student efforts as well as those of Marty Peterson to inform the governor and legislators about the challenges facing the UI have been effective. President Michael will make a presentation to JFAC on January 29 and will also give testimony to the state's Human Resources Committee on compensation issues. In response to a councilor's question, Winstead agreed that we will need to make some choices as to which unfunded and other obligations we will be able to fund and in what order. Provost Pitcher stated that we are not adding to the current gap, but that we will need to work hard to maintain the discipline necessary to address the current challenges.

**Impact on Increased Student Fees.** Mike Whiteman, Dan Davenport and ASUI President-elect, Isaac Myrhum, and ASUI Vice-president-elect Nate Tiegs participated in the Council discussion regarding increased student fees. ASUI is proposing a 7.05% increase in student fees while President Michael will recommend a 9.9% increase. Myrhum said that students want to keep fees as low as possible while meeting the needs of the institution. He and Tiegs see student fees directed primarily to student life programs, which will supplement learning in the classroom. They agreed that, above all, students prized the value of their education and want degrees that will have the respect of future employers. Whiteman noted that in spite of recent fee increases, enrollment continues to increase. He also called attention to the fact that last year we had an exceptionally high freshman-sophomore retention rate (82.3%). Davenport expressed concern about decreasing federal aid for students. He also noted that while the State has a relatively large high-school graduation rate, Idaho ranks 46<sup>th</sup> in the nation for students continuing on to college. He presented other figures which indicated that attending college is to a significant degree based on family income. Winstead said that we cannot continue to have 10% student fee increases over a long period of time—we will need to rethink our funding strategy. He also pointed out that accessibility has two components: affordability and availability. There is often a tradeoff between these components since limited resources (due in part to lower fees) may lead to a decline in the number of programs that can be offered. Myrhum and Tiegs stressed that they want to see the university succeed and will be willing to enter into further discussions on funding as the legislative sessions progress.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Vice-chair Bailey suggested that an ad-hoc committee be formed to draft a document for Council consideration on faculty governance. He said this would be especially timely in light of the presidential search. In addition to Bailey, councilors Bitterwolf, Chandler, Lillard, and Voxman agreed to serve on the committee.

As is her wont, Councilor Lillard moved adjournment. The motion was duly seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 5:01.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Voxman  
Interim Secretary of the Faculty Council