

University of Idaho
FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES

2003-2004 Meeting #13, Tuesday, February 10, 2004

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

Absent: Guenther, Stegner

Observers: 15

Call to Order. A quorum being present, Faculty Council Chair Wagner, called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. in the Brink Hall Faculty Lounge.

Minutes. The council accepted the minutes of meeting #12 of the 2003-2004 Faculty Council, held on February 3, 2004 as distributed.

Chair's Report. Chair Wagner called councilors' attention to the upcoming Special Faculty meeting that will take place, Thursday, February 19, 3:30 p.m. in JEB 104. Twenty-five faculty members petitioned to have this meeting "to discuss issues of faculty governance and academic freedom." Two resolutions have been proposed. The agenda for the meeting can be found on the Faculty Council webpage www.webs.uidaho.edu/facultycouncil.

Provost's Report. Provost Pitcher called attention to the special SBOE meeting to be held this week to interview the two presidential candidates. He is hopeful that the SBOE will make a decision within the next few days. Pitcher also called attention to a UI Role and Mission Document resulting from ongoing Deans' discussions. This document will be on next week's agenda.

Other Announcements and Communications. Vice-chair Bailey announced that an ad hoc committee is forming to look at campus freedom of speech issues. The committee would like faculty representation. Those interested should contact Dan Schoenberg.

Committee Reports. The Council returned to a discussion of the UCC approved actions regarding changing the name of the College of Graduate Studies to the College of Graduate and Interdisciplinary Studies and related proposals. Councilor Gunter reported opposition to this proposal from the College of Science. Provost Pitcher said that he was satisfied with answers to questions he had posed at a previous Council meeting and he now supported the name change. He favored having the Environmental Science (ES) undergraduate and graduate programs in the same location. Some councilors questioned whether any action was needed. They expressed concern of housing an undergraduate program in the Graduate College and what effect (potentially negative) this might have on the College. In response, Interim Associate Dean of the Graduate College, Kathy Aiken, said that this would have no effect on the College. She pointed out that no costs to the College resulted from the proposed change. Others noted that the proposed change, though not ideal, was the best solution to ensure a neutral location for the ES program and that this action was overwhelmingly favored by the many faculty involved in this program.

After further discussion Councilor Lillard moved to call for the question. This motion was approved. Chair Wagner called for a simultaneous vote on the related UCC actions: FC-04-012, FC-04-013, FC-04-015, and FC-04-023. The motion failed in a 10 to 9 vote opposing these UCC approved proposals with the chair casting the decisive ballot.

The Council then turned to a motion (Fairchild, Chandler) regarding facility scheduling and management restructure. Referring to the President's decision of restructuring of the management of athletic, academic, and recreational facilities, the motion called for the Faculty Council to:

- a. not support this decision
- b. respectfully advise President Michael to rescind this decision
- c. appoint a committee to conduct a data driven ("real data", i.e., dollars and time) analysis of the cost effectiveness of such a decision, with input from all stake holders, especially those that are concerned with academic and student priorities
- d. make public the results of the analysis and solicit feedback from the university community
- e. use the data and feedback to make an informed decision on this issue by July 1, 2004

With Councilor Dockrey's concurrence, this motion replaced the motion he had presented to the Council at its last meeting. Councilor Fairchild expressed understanding for the necessity of timely decisions. However, in this instance he believed it appropriate to rescind the President's decision because of the lack of input, the decision's impact on academics, the need for more data-based analysis, and the possibility of finding a better alternative to the decision that had been made. Councilor Pikowsky stressed the need for more details on how \$200,000 savings could be achieved by the restructuring and questioned the advisability of redeploying some athletic coaches and IT personnel. In response to a councilor's question, the Provost reviewed the restructuring procedure and noted that the restructuring committee had consulted with key administrators in the effort to achieve efficiencies. He said the President had received this input, but wanted to expedite the changes by implementing them while they were still under discussion. Councilor Dockrey emphasized ASUI support for the motion and reiterated student concerns about their lack of input in the decision-making process. Councilor Burnett, while noting that the motion was thoughtfully worded, expressed concern about the effects that passage of the motion as stated would have on the President's dealing with external constituencies. He preferred that the focus of a motion be on ensuring in the future timely feedback on potential decisions and that committees be created having adequate representation from affected parties.

Kathy Browder, from HPERD, stated that insufficient information was available to make an informed decision and was concerned about the academic impact of the decision. Provost Pitcher said that the President would be in agreement with parts c, d, and e of the motion. ASUI presidential policy advisor, Justin Eslinger, expressed concern about certain points made in President Michael's February 10 memorandum to the University community. In particular Eslinger noted that the ASUI-Kibbie Dome, Memorial Gym, the UI Golf Course, the Swim Center and the Student Rec Center were all referred to as athletic rather than shared facilities. Dennis Dolny, chair of HPERD, noted that there appears to be a concern that it is everybody against Athletics, which is not the case. He emphasized that he and his colleagues are strong supporters of athletics and he hoped that everyone can work together and not view this as us against athletics. He pointed out, however, that because of conflicting priorities, problems can arise in using coaches to teach classes in his department. He also referred to a recent decision to postpone renovation of the Swim Center until the new swimming coach could provide his input as a good example of a deliberative process even though it meant a delay in the project. Vice-chair Bailey wondered if the tone of the motion was overly confrontational and suggested that some adjustments to it including replacing the word rescind with reconsider might be in order. Councilor Fairchild disagreed. He said that the intent of the motion was not to be confrontational but rather to take a strong position in expressing concern about the decision-making process and its outcome. Councilor Dockrey said that the President had already been urged to reconsider the decision but had chosen not to do so. Dockrey therefore asked the motion be approved as originally stated.

Councilor Lillard asked if the President might be persuaded to change his mind regarding the restructuring decision. Responses tended to indicate that this would be unlikely. Provost Pitcher said that the President had looked carefully at areas where savings could be found and was determined to push the university community to take actions that will achieve the desired results. Wayland Winstead noted that the President had listened carefully to the pros and cons of the change before making his decision. He also said that this was just one of many decisions that will be made in light of the Governor's budget recommendations which will lead to yet greater financial stress on the university.

A motion (Rinker, Fairchild) to call for the question was approved and the Council voted 15 to 4 in favor of the Fairchild resolution. Near the conclusion of the meeting Chair Wagner asked Councilor Fairchild to recommend a faculty member to serve on the steering committee dealing with the proposed restructuring.

Councilor Lillard awoke from a momentary lapse of thought to move adjournment and the meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Voxman
Interim Secretary of the Faculty Council