

University of Idaho
FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES

2003-2004 Meeting #20 Tuesday, April 13, 2004

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

Absent: Bailey, Pitcher, Reese

Observers: 7

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 #19 of the 2003-2004 Faculty Council, held on April 6, 2004 as distributed.

Chair's Report. Chair Wagner reminded councilors that there would be a special meeting of the Council, Friday, April 16, to discuss fiscal issues facing the UI. In his report Wagner expressed his surprise that the UI spends \$20,000,000/year on health insurance. He said that UI employee insurance costs would remain the same next year except for retirees who had not reached the Rule of 80. Wagner said that the chairs of faculty senates and councils would meet with others next week to develop a common advocacy plan for higher education. He also called for more nominations for the Vision and Resources Task Force. In response to councilors' questions, Wagner said that the Provost would meet with a working group, consisting of himself, Jeff Bailey, Bill Voxman, Isaac Myhrum, Angie Hammond and two or three deans, in making the selection of the Task Force members. Though the exact composition of the Task Force is not fixed, it is anticipated that it will include two students, two or three staff members, and approximately 10 faculty members, including department chairs. It is likely that each college will have at least one faculty member on the Task Force. Chair Wagner said that the Dean of CNR had called a meeting of his faculty to discuss the UI financial situation and Wagner hoped that other deans would do likewise. Wagner emphasized that the work of the Task Force would be arduous though eventually its work should lead to strong, focused programs at the university. He also said that President Tim White has been involved in determining the structure and charge of the Task Force. White will receive the recommendations of the Task Force on August 1, make changes he deems appropriate and then solicit input from various UI committees such as the Faculty Council as well as from the entire UI community.

Committee Reports. The Council gave unanimous approval to the committee assignments and appointment of committee chairs that were forwarded as seconded motions from the Committee on Committees. The Council also approved unanimously the request for appointment authority that allows the chair of the Committee on Committees and the Interim Faculty Secretary to continue the committee appointment and replacement process during the summer. They will provide an updated list of committee appointments for Council' approval at its first meeting in the fall

FC-04-038: FSH 3520 – Faculty Tenure, State Board Change. In the absence of Danielle Hess from the UI Counsel's Office and the Provost, Interim Faculty Secretary Voxman provided background information for this change in the FSH. The new wording of FSH 3520 is primarily the result of a recent change in SBOE policy which now states "A faculty member will usually be evaluated for the acquisition of tenure after at least four (4) full years of service and in no case later than during the faculty member's sixth (6th) full academic year of employment at the institution." In the past, faculty members were in certain instances able to receive tenure during their 7th year. In response to Councilor Chandler's question, Voxman said that under certain very limited circumstances such as a prolonged illness, the tenure "clock" could be stopped temporarily.

FC-04-039: Change in the Facilities Scheduling Committee. This item was brought to the Council as an informational item. The Facilities Scheduling Committee is an administrative committee and does not fall under the Council's jurisdiction.

FC-04-042: FSH 1550 Policies and Procedures. Sharyl Kammerzell, from the UI Counsel's office, introduced this new section to the FSH. She said that this proposal grew out of her perception that the development and approval of UI policies was done in a somewhat haphazard manner. She was asked by the Provost to chair an ad hoc committee that would recommend ways to codify the process for introducing, discussing, and approving new policies. An important feature of the recommended proposal is the formation of a Joint Policy Committee consisting of the chair of the UI Council, one of the co-chairs of each of the UI Council's standing committees, or their designees, and the chair and vice chair of the Faculty Council and Faculty Secretary, or their designees. This committee would review new or amended policies from the Policy Coordinator (also a new position) to determine whether the policy requires approval by the Faculty Council, UI Council, or both. Kammerzell recognized the existence of gray areas between purely administrative policies and faculty governance policies where decisions

will need to be made as to which body or bodies should take action. She also stressed that the proposed plan calls for adequate notification of all policy changes. A motion (Cloud, Burnett) to approve the plan was approved by the Council with one dissenting vote.

FC-04-043: Athletic Department Budget. Rob Spear, Director of Athletics presented the Council with a hand-out addressing the questions: What does the Department of Athletics do for the UI? Why did we add a sport? Why did we add Women's Swimming? Why are we going to Hawaii? Has the Athletic Department taken any cuts? Why is the Athletic Department Budget being increased? and Why doesn't the UI go back to Division 1-AA? In his presentation Spear pointed out the impact that athletics has on the UI and the community. He said that athletics provides a rallying point for alumni and can serve as a backdrop for fundraising efforts of the various colleges. Athletic programs help market the university and attract students nationwide. Spear said swimming was added as the most cost effective way to reach the mandated Division 1A criterion to compete in 16 sports. The swimming coach will also be the aquatics manager which will yield substantial savings in addition to becoming involved in the Palouse Aquatics Program offering his expertise to the local community. With regard to the trip to Hawaii, Spear said that the University of Hawaii will cover all travel costs and that the UI may even generate money from the trip. The Athletic Department has taken a 12% reduction in its general education operating budget, though Spear believes that the cuts did not occur in the appropriate areas, especially in terms of marketing and academic support. In response to questions about the possibility of reverting to Division 1AA status, Spear said that this would result in substantially reduced revenues. He indicated that nationwide, Division 1AA schools lose on average \$3,000,000/year while the corresponding figure for Division 1A schools is about \$1,000,000. He also noted that the University of Montana, one of the premier Division 1AA schools, is facing a \$1,000,000 deficit, while the UI has had only one deficit year in the last five years. Councilor Young stated that revenue losses incurred by dropping back to Division 1AA would be losses in the Athletic Department's budget and would not affect academics. Spear said that playing as a Division 1AA would mean a significant reduction in major sponsorships as well as reduced revenues and exposure resulting from no longer playing schools such as UW, UO and WSU. Wayland Winstead, Executive Director of Institutional Planning and Budget, added that as a Division 1AA school the UI would be viewed in the same category as, for instance, Eastern or Western Washington, perhaps making marketing the UI more difficult. Winstead said that any change in UI division status would have to be carefully planned because of contractual penalties, loss of scholarship money, and a reduced revenue base for academic units due to generating fewer student credit hours.

Councilor Exon asked about conference affiliation. Spear said that at the moment the Sunbelt Conference is our only feasible option. We would like to become a member of the Western Athletic Conference, which, for a variety of reasons, including geography, is a much more appealing prospect. He said, however, that the UI faces two major problems in this regard: attendance and adequate facilities, both of which tend to work against us in terms of an invitation from the WAC. Councilor Guenther inquired about student-athletes academic performance. Spear responded that 90% of these students graduate and their overall gpa is 3.02. Chair Wagner asked what savings would be generated in the long term if athletics were eliminated. Winstead said that this kind of calculation is difficult to do without making assumptions regarding how such an action might affect other funding sources. He said that the UI must resolve two major public issues: dealing with the backlog of deferred maintenance and finding the appropriate balance between taxpayer contributions and student fees. Significant support from UIs alumni will be needed to successfully resolve these issues, support that might be lost if the UI were to eliminate its athletic programs. Councilor Dockrey expressed concern about the potentially massive cuts in academic programs. He wondered if the focus of the cuts should be directed more towards athletics. In response, Spear reiterated some of the points he had previously made about the contributions of athletics to the UI and the community. He cautioned against pitting one program against another, and stressed that we all need to work together in dealing with the challenges facing the university. Councilor Rinker asked how more funds could be generated from the boosters. Spear said that considerable work needs to be done in this area. In particular, it is essential to generate more local support and to establish additional booster chapters throughout the state and region. His goal is to increase booster support to \$2,500,000/year for the UI athletic programs.

As the meeting neared its end, Chair Wagner thanked Spear and said we would like to see him back to meet with the Council in the future. Wagner also said that the Coalition of Intercollegiate Athletics, of which we are a member remains active and continues to work for a greater role of faculty governance in athletics.

Councilor Lillard quietly moved adjournment and the Council acted positively on her motion at 5:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Voxman
Interim Secretary of the Faculty Council