

University of Idaho  
**FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**2003-2004 Meeting #22, Tuesday, May 4, 2004**

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

**Absent:** Guenther, Reese, Woolston

**Observers:** 7

**Call to Order.** A quorum being present, Faculty Council Chair Wagner, called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. in the Brink Hall Faculty Lounge.

**Minutes.** The Council accepted the minutes of meetings #20 and #21, held 4/13/04 and 4/16/04, respectively, as presented.

**Chair's Report.** Chair Wagner appointed Councilors Rinker, Rosholt, Lillard and Fairchild to serve on a student appeals panel. He then spoke briefly about the previously held General Faculty meeting. He noted the anger expressed at the meeting and hoped that it was not the general consensus at the UI. He pointed out that a number of Council approved items failed to gain the support of the faculty, which he ascribed in part to a "misrepresentation of facts." Chair Wagner called special attention to the tabling of the Policy on Policies proposal, which leaves in place a somewhat haphazard system for dealing with new policies and the relationship between the Faculty Council and the UI Council.

**Provost's Report.** Provost Pitcher called attention to the various commencement activities that will take place on and off campus, including the Distinguished Idahoan award that will be presented to Interim President Gary Michael. He also mentioned that a site team will be on campus to review SBOE research grant proposals; this review could result in a UI award of \$500,000/year for three years. Pitcher said that 25 UI students and employees, including approximately 15 faculty members had been invited by Tim White to participate on the Vision and Resources Task Force. White has been personally involved in the selection process and will meet with the group to discuss its charge and expectations. The Task Force's recommendations will be made available to the UI community for input in the fall.

**Committee Reports.** Vice-chair Bailey presented a request from the Juntura committee to change its structure to include the Director of the Women's Center (w/o vote) and the Human Rights Compliance Office (w/o vote). The Special Assistant to the President for Diversity (a discontinued position) was removed from the committee. The Council gave unanimous approval to these changes that came as a seconded motion from Committee on Committees. Provost Pitcher said that although the Office for Diversity and Human Rights has been closed, Don Burnett will chair a coordinating group charged with implementing the recently developed diversity action plan in working with the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Women's Center, and Human Resources. He said that Tim White is interested in a continuing conversation about diversity and human rights initiatives.

Vice-chair Bailey said that a new structure for the Facilities Scheduling Committee had been developed which meets the approval of the Registrar and Kathy Browder from HPERD who had raised questions about this committee at the General Faculty meeting. This administrative committee is not a Faculty Council committee and so no Council action was necessary.

**Special Orders.** The Council gave unanimous approval to the list of Spring 2004, graduates.

**FC-04-044: FSH 3710. Leave Policies for all Employees.** Danielle Hess, Associate University Counsel, gave some of her impressions regarding the recent UI general faculty meeting. It seemed to her that there were three camps: those who thought that nothing should be done with the current Leave Policy, since the faculty were not responsible for the current financial dilemma; those that thought something should be done, but were in opposition to the proposed leave without pay option; and those who accepted the idea of leave without pay if there were a process in place to guard against abuses. Provost Pitcher said that the administration was not in a hurry to make a decision regarding furloughs and would defer any action until next fall after the Vision and Resources Task Force had made its recommendations. He said, however, that there would be language in the salary agreements allowing for the possibility of furloughs once adequate policies had been established. Chair Wagner said it would be useful to add language to the FSH in order to

ensure safeguards in case furloughs were used. He also noted that UI staff were generally more favorably disposed to the notion of furloughs than were their faculty counterparts. Councilor Rinker argued that further language regarding furloughs should not be added to the FSH since such language might make the furlough option a standard procedure to be used in the future. Councilor Chandler expressed concern about the possible abuses in administering furloughs and he favored adding appropriate language to the FSH. Councilor Exon asked about declaring a state of financial exigency—Pitcher and Hess said that there would be a number of problems in doing this and such action would be used only as a last resort.

**FC-04-045: Higher Education Communication Committee.** Vice-chair Bailey said that chairs and vice-chairs of Faculty Councils and Senates statewide had decided to form a group whose purpose would be to communicate information about the state's colleges and universities to the general public. It is hoped that better informed citizens will be able to influence the attitudes of the state's legislators and administrators towards higher education. To this end, the Committee on Committees proposed the formation of the UI Higher Education Communication Committee, which would be a Faculty Council Committee and would send representatives for the statewide group. Councilor Cloud objected to the formation of a new committee or program at this time. Other councilors suggested that the proposed committee should be more inclusive. It was generally agreed that this topic should be revisited in the fall.

**FC-04-046: FSH 1565. G. Officer Education Faculty.** Vice-chair Bailey said that this proposal would increase the degree requirements for faculty teaching in the UI ROTC program. Some councilors questioned the necessity of such a change. After a brief discussion the seconded motion from the Committee on Committees to approve this proposal was defeated by a 6 to 5 vote. After the vote it was suggested that it would be helpful to have a representative of the program attend a Council meeting in the fall to explain more clearly the rationale behind the proposed change.

**FC-04-047: Start Date of Spring Semester.** Reta Pikowsky, UI Registrar, presented the Council with some possible options for changing the start date of the Spring Semester. These options were generated partially in response to a BSU initiative to reconsider the state institutions' academic calendars. There exists the possibility that finals week can be considered as instructional days, which could open the door to a reduction to the current number of days devoted to instruction. Such changes might also "solve" the problem of spring classes starting at midweek. Councilor Gunter, Councilor Dockrey, and others spoke against the notion of reducing the number of instructional days; Dockrey said that ASUI was actually in favor of adding two more days to the current schedule. No action was taken by the Council.

**FC-04-048: FSH 5400. One Year Temporary Extension.** Gene Merrell, Assistant Vice President for Research, said that the current language in FSH 5400 regarding intellectual property, was of a temporary nature and set to expire. A committee was to have looked at this temporary language during the past year but other pressing matters prevented this item coming forward for discussion. Merrell asked the Council for approval of another one-year temporary extension of the current language until more definitive language can be developed. It was noted that the current language has not been subject to any problems. The Council gave unanimous approval to a motion (Rinker, McGuire) to approve the one-year extension.

Temporarily restraining Councilor Lillard's enthusiasm for adjournment, Interim Secretary of the Faculty Council Voxman rose to present Chair Wagner with a well-deserved gift from the Council in recognition of the Chair's consistent hard work and his diligence in representing the interests of the faculty during the course of a difficult year. Voxman said it had been a real pleasure to work with the Chair over the course of the year. The Councilors gave the Chair a strong round of applause. Wagner thanked the Council for its support. He said that next year would present a number of complex challenges and he encouraged the Council to work closely with the incoming president and give the new administration its support in meeting the challenges facing the UI. Provost Pitcher thanked the out-going councilors for their work during the past three years. Councilor Lillard, a bit pensively, offered her final call for adjournment, and the Council adjourned at 4:47 to cede its place for the first meeting of the 2004-2005 Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Voxman  
Interim Secretary of the Faculty Council