

University of Idaho  
**FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**2004-2005 Meeting #3, Tuesday, September 7, 2004**

**Present:** Bailey (Chair), Baillargeon, Beard, Cloud, Greever, Gunter, Houle, McCaffrey (for Bechinski), McGuire, McMurtry, Pitcher (w/o vote), Reese, Reid, Rinker, Rosholt, Voxman (w/o vote), Woolston, Young

**Absent:** Exon, Hammel, McLaughlin, Morgan, Zemetra

**Observers:** 3

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

**Minutes.** With one minor revision, the council accepted the minutes of meeting #2 of the 2004-2005 Faculty Council, held on August 31, as distributed.

**Chair's Report.** Chair Bailey reported that the President would like to initiate soon the Faculty Conversation Groups that he had described at the previous council meeting. These conversations can involve a mixture of individual faculty or groups of faculty with a common interest. Details about the conversation groups will be available at the next council meeting. Bailey also said that there had been a request for faculty to score the essay portions of the SAT exams. Those interested should contact Linda Morris.

**Provost's Report.** Provost Pitcher announced the latest enrollment figures. He said that enrollment was essentially level compared to that of last year. There is increased enrollment at the senior and graduate level, but freshman, sophomore, and junior enrollment is down somewhat. He pointed out that this reflects the demographics of the state and that other state institutions apparently are also experiencing relatively flat enrollments. The impact on the university's budget is yet to be determined since it depends in part on the mix of students who are enrolled. It will also depend to some degree on the legislature's willingness to fund workload adjustments. The Provost emphasized the need for continued attention to enrollment management in determining where the university should focus its efforts in recruiting and retaining students.

**Annual Report from the Faculty Secretary.** Interim Faculty Secretary Voxman presented the council with an annual report summarizing the actions of last year's council. Councilor Woolston asked about the status of FC-04-010: New B.A. and Minor in History of Art, Design and Visual Culture. This item was sent to the President's Office on May 19, 2004, but as yet no further action has been taken on it. Chair Bailey said that it would be useful to add another column to the annual report indicating the current status of the various council actions. Voxman agreed to incorporate this into future reports.

**Spring/Summer Appointments to University Standing Committees.** The council gave unanimous approval to the committee appointments made over the course of the summer.

**Sabbatical Leave Evaluation Committee: Sabbatical Recommendations.** The council gave unanimous approval to the sabbatical leave recommendations presented by the Provost.

**Confirmation of Professor Emeritus Bill Voxman as Secretary to the Faculty Council.** Passed unanimously.

**Election of Two Council Members to the Institutional Planning and Budget Advisory Committee.** Councilor Gunter was elected to a three-year term and Councilor McLaughlin was elected to a one-year term.

**Election of Council Member to the Campus Planning Advisory Committee.** James Reid was elected to fill this position.

**Health Insurance Advisory Committee.** Councilor McGuire agreed to be the council representative on this advisory committee.

**Question and Answer Session with Pat Sturko and Linda Peavey.** In response to a councilor's concern about the newly constructed "barrier" in the HR office, Pat Sturko said that it was put in place primarily as a result of safety concerns for those working in that office and to ensure that confidential materials would be protected. The remodel of the HR office is also intended to offer greater privacy and has resulted in a separate area for a kiosk that visitors can use for uploading resumes, job applications, etc. Sturko and Linda Peavey in response to a councilor's question said that there have been negotiations with providers in the area of vision care, but that there remains work to be done in that regard. They said that St. Josephs Hospital in Lewiston is the only hospital in the state that is not contracted with Blue Cross, though emergency care would be covered there and elsewhere. She also explained that in case of international travel it is essential to keep the receipts in order to receive the benefits of the program. To minimize prescription drug costs Sturko and Peavey recommended taking advantage of the mail order program and to use generic drugs to the extent possible. Some councilors indicated a preference to support local pharmacies and pointed out that the advice local pharmacists can give is an important component of medical care. Sturko responding to a question about off-campus employees, stated that visits have been made to off-campus sites to explain the benefits packages. In light of tight budgets limiting the amount of travel possible compressed video has also been utilized.

Sturko reported that the University Vision and Resources Task Force is looking at the institution's health and insurance benefits programs. The current cost of these programs is approximately \$20,000,000. Sturko said the ultimate goal is to manage the programs so as to minimize costs without eroding employee and retiree benefits.

**Future Agenda Items.** The Chair invited councilors to suggest possible topics for action by the council. Potential future agenda items included:

- Plus-minus grading
- Use of the decimal system for annual performance evaluations
- Revisiting the possibility of using Y-accounts to pay professional dues or fees
- Academic freedom, especially in relation to research programs of non-tenured faculty
- Revisiting the proposal to set up a policy coordinating committee that could track the decision-making process
- Status of the relationship between athletics and student recreation
- Addressing weaknesses described in the accreditation self-study materials
- Use of grants or other means to enhance salaries (salary enhancement document can be viewed on the provost's website at [http://www.webs.uidaho.edu/provost/policy\\_guidelines.htm](http://www.webs.uidaho.edu/provost/policy_guidelines.htm))
- Determining what is meant by a student-centered university
- Increased emphasis on and better funding for teaching

Following (somewhat tentatively) in the footsteps of his colleague and predecessor, Monique Lillard, Councilor Beard moved for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Councilor McGuire and the meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Voxman  
Interim Secretary of the Faculty Council