

University of Idaho
FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES

2004-2005 Meeting #5, Tuesday, September 28, 2004

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

Absent: Hammel, Reid

Observers: 4

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

Minutes. The council accepted, with one minor change, the minutes of meeting #4 of the 2004-2005 Faculty Council, held on September 14, as distributed.

Chair's Report. Chair Bailey asked the council if there were any faculty issues they would like to comment on regarding the recent, untimely deaths of three university students. Council members, though obviously saddened by these tragic events, did not bring up any specific issues. Bailey called councilors' attention to an invitation from ASUI to attend an ASUI reception, Wednesday, September 29th, at 5:00 p.m. He also encouraged council members to attend the President's Holiday Celebration in December. Bailey said that he had asked Faculty Affairs Committee chair, Fran Wagner, to have that committee consider + - grading, decimal evaluation forms, salary enhancement issues, and academic freedom issues for non-tenured faculty research. He also mentioned that Jay Kenton, Vice-president for Finance and Administration will be working closely with the Institutional Planning and Budget Committee and will present quarterly reports to the committee.

Provost's Report. Provost Pitcher commended the organizers of the recently held national meeting of administrators of general education programs at land-grant institutions that was hosted by the university. He noted that representatives from more than 20 universities attended the meeting which was a good indication of the national attention that the University of Idaho's core program is receiving.

FC-05-004: Proposed Changes to Regulation D-2. This seconded motion from UCC to limit (to 18) the number of credits a law student can register for in a semester without the approval of the Associate Dean in the College of Law was approved unanimously.

Faculty Council Secretary Voxman reported that at the last meeting of the UCC concern was expressed that a recent NOI involving a departmental name change had not been presented to that committee for its consideration. Provost Pitcher indicated that there were policy guidelines in place for the disposition of NOI's and suggested that they be reviewed in determining the process to be followed for such name changes.

FC-05-005: Minor Change in the Composition of the Facilities Scheduling Policy Committee. This seconded motion from the Committee on Committees to add one more faculty member to the Facilities Scheduling Policy Committee was approved unanimously.

Approval of the Final Exam Schedule, Fall/Spring 2005-06. Finding that the schedule did not conflict with commencement as feared earlier, the council gave its unanimous approval.

FC-05-006: Proposed Changes to FSH 6400: Academic Adjustment and Accommodation for Students with Disabilities. These primarily editorial changes to FSH 6400 were approved unanimously.

Update on the Accreditation Process. Doug Adams, who has been charged with preparing the university's self-study report, reminded the council that 13 members of an NWCCU accreditation team will be on campus October 4-6 as part of the university's 10-year comprehensive accreditation review. Adams said that the accreditation team would present the highlights of their findings at an open meeting, Wednesday, October 8, at 11:00 in the Administration Auditorium. In response to a councilor's question regarding the team's possible reaction to the university's financial situation, Adams said that it is unlikely the committee will praise us highly. However, he emphasized that what the team is actually

interested in is for the self-study to identify existing problems and to see that a plan of action to correct any problems has been developed and/or are in progress. The Provost noted that a thorough account of the institution's financial difficulties is found in Chapter 7 of the self-study report which is available on the web. Adams said that the committee will be especially interested in how we plan to deal with deficiencies in this and other areas. President White has 90 days to respond to the committee's report, after which time a final report will be made available to a commission consisting of 25 elected members representing higher education, state legislatures, business, etc., that meets in January. President White and the chair of the accreditation team will attend this meeting where final decisions will be made with regard to the university's accreditation.

Adams and Pitcher said they anticipate that in addition to the budget and financial management, the accreditation team will pay special attention to the areas of assessment, low-enrollment classes, facilities, and university resources for carrying out the multitude of university programs. The Provost and Adams stressed that the university is supplying the accreditation team with a candid account of the state of the university and how the university proposes to deal with the challenges facing us. No sugar-coating is to be found in the materials presented to the accreditation team.

New Business: Chair Bailey asked the councilors how they would like to respond to the UVRTF report. After a rather long and occasionally meandering discussion the council agreed on sponsoring two open forums in mid- or late-October. The primary purpose of the forums is to provide faculty, staff, and students the opportunity to exchange ideas and to encourage members of the university community to forward written comments to President White concerning the report. Councilor McMurtry suggested that a way be found to include off-campus faculty and staff participation in these forums or perhaps in forums held outside of Moscow. Councilor McLaughlin emphasized that the UVRTF report should stand on its own, and it was not appropriate for task force members to defend or offer interpretations of their findings. Councilors McLaughlin, Gunter, and Bailey agreed to develop a format and dates for the forums.

Councilors Beard and Baillargeon met little resistance to their motion to adjourn and the meeting concluded at 4:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Voxman
Interim Secretary of the Faculty Council