

University of Idaho
FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES

2004-2005 Meeting #24, Tuesday, May 10th, 2005

Present: Adams (w/o vote) Anderson, Bailey, Baillargeon, Beard, Bechinski, Cloud, Exon, Greever, Gunter, Hammel, McGuire, McLaughlin, McMurtry, Reid, Rinker, Woolston, Young, Zemetra

Absent: Farnen, Morris, Reese

Observers: 4

Call to Order: A quorum being present, Faculty Council Chair Bailey called the meeting to order at 3:50 p.m. (The usual meeting time was postponed, today as it was similarly postponed last week, so that the council might interview the provost candidate who was on campus for an interview today.)

Minutes: The minutes of the May 3rd meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

Chair's Report: The chair reported on his emerging plans for the creation of a special task force to work on a permanent revision of FSH 5400. He is planning to compose the group with members of Faculty Council, Faculty Affairs Committee, Intellectual Property Committee, and other interested and potentially affected groups. From Faculty Council Professors Ben Beard and Robert Rinker volunteered and it was additionally suggested that Professor Mallah-Pollack, a visiting professor in the Law School, would be a good person to add because of her particular professional expertise. The faculty secretary noted that he had the names of some graduate students who would be willing, indeed eager, to be on this group.

The chair then reported on his concern as well as others' that, in this electronic age, there was no better way to establish the presence, and record the vote, of off-campus faculty members at a university faculty meeting than to guess how many were surrounding an indefinite number of speaker phones. He suggested that since all faculty have Banner ID's, there would be some way of using them for the purposes of establishing a quorum and for voting for both on and off campus. Councilor McLaughlin pointed out that there were such things as ID-dependent clickers that might be used in voting and could also be used for certain classroom purposes.

With regard to the most recent university faculty meeting, that of May 10th, 2005, he noted that there was nowhere near a quorum, however many off-campus faculty were present via telephone and thus the actions previously taken by Faculty Council were deemed to have the approval of the university faculty and would be sent on to the president for his consideration. Councilor Reid wondered if the lack of a quorum could be the result of the time that the meeting was scheduled and inquired if an evening time had ever been considered. The faculty secretary replied that evening times had been considered but always rejected because of the unlikelihood that a quorum's worth of faculty would return in the evening after having already gone home.

Finally, the chair expressed his appreciation of the opportunity of being this year's chair of Faculty Council. He has appreciated getting input on various issues, both positive and negative, from around campus. He has also found working with the members of Faculty Council a particularly good experience and was appreciative of the opportunity.

In response to the chair's last comments, councilor Young wished to thank the chair, on behalf of the whole council, for his leadership this past year and of all the extra hours that he has put into the job.

Provost's Report: In the absence of the provost, there was no provost's report.

Announcements and Communications: Professor Gunter announced to the council that a very large, international convention of geophysicists would be on campus starting May 20th when the University of Idaho would be hosting the Goldschmidt Conference with some fifteen to sixteen hundred participants. This was a really big event which would be bringing about a million dollars to the university and another million to the community. He asked faculty that if they should see any bewildered and lost looking individuals to stop and offer a helping hand.

New Business: The council took up four notices of intent (NOI's) which were coming as seconded motions from UCC.

FC-05-042: NOI: Discontinuance of M.S., Geophysics Emphasis, College of Science. Councilor Joe Cloud, also the associate dean of the College of Science, explained that this emphasis was being discontinued since it has no students. A councilor wondered whether the abandonment of this emphasis would have the effect of shifting this program to BSU. Dean Cloud said that BSU already had a master’s degree and a PhD in geophysics in what was a very good Department of Geology so the state is not losing “capacity” by our dropping of this unused degree. The vote to approve the discontinuance of this program carried unanimously.

FC-05-043: NOI: Discontinuance of B.S., Office Administration, College of Education. Chair Bailey asked Dean Jean Christiansen of the College of Education, who along with Professor James Gregson, was present to discuss this proposal what the fiscal impact of closing this degree would be (none being noted in the NOI). Dean Christiansen replied that there would, indeed, be none. The courses which make up the degree in Office Administration are embedded in other programs within the university. The closing of this degree will result in some resource and personnel reallocations but no monetary gains or losses. The vote to approve the discontinuance of this program carried unanimously.

FC-05-044: NOI: Discontinuance of Recreational Therapy Minor, College of Education. The NOI states that the closure of this minor will result in the reallocation of one-half faculty FTE. Dean Christiansen asked where the FTE would go and she replied that it would stay in the division and be used to support other degree programs there. The vote to approve the discontinuance of this program carried unanimously.

FC-05-045: NOI: Discontinuance of M.Ed. in Educational Technology, College of Education. When asked how many students would be affected by the closure of this program, Dean Christiansen replied that some three or four were currently enrolled. Students interested in this area could opt to enroll in allied degree programs, such as the one in Professional –Technical and Technology Education. BSU offers a program similar to the one we are seeking to close in an on-line version. The vote to approve the discontinuance of this program carried unanimously.

New Business: Vice-Chair Zemetra, acknowledging that some of his thunder had been anticipated, wished to add to the well-deserved praise due Chair Bailey for his efforts on behalf of the faculty and of the university as a whole this past year. He offered Professor Bailey tangible tokens of the council’s appreciation in the form of a suitably engraved granite paperweight and a gift certificate for him and his wife to Sangria. [Applause.] He also suggested recognition of the work of Ann Thompson, assistant to the faculty secretary, and her support of Faculty Council and faculty governance in general. [Wild, prolonged applause.]

Other Business: Professor Gunter raised the issue of the 27th pay period and its disparate affect on nine-month and twelve-month faculty. Nine-month faculty will have their annual salary spread over twenty-seven rather than the usual twenty-six pay periods while twelve-month faculty (and all other twelve-month employees) will have their annual salary spread over the usual twenty-six pay periods and get an additional twenty-seventh pay check as well. It will seem like a pay cut for nine-month faculty (though they will receive their full annual salary in the course of the fiscal year) and will be a one-time pay bonus of a little less than 4% for twelve-month employees. Neither group will actually increase or decrease its workload. Though the thoughts of the nine-month faculty present were not noticeably lightened thereby, it was pointed out that all the other higher education institutions in the state were faced by the same problem and were merely fulfilling the governor’s directives in this matter.

Adjournment: There being no further business, it was moved and seconded (Beard, McGuire) to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Q. Adams
Faculty Secretary and Secretary of Faculty Council