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## Faculty Senate Minutes May 1, 2006

**Senators:** Senators Present: Barry Anton (Chair), Kris Bartanen, Nancy Bristow, Derek Buescher, Bill Haltom, Suzanne Holland, John Hanson, Jean Kim, Keith Maxwell, Eric Orlin, Ross Singleton, David Sousa, and Peter Wimberger

**Visitors:** Randy Bentson, Jim Jasinski, David Smith, Carolyn Weisz

Senate Chair Anton called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

The minutes from the April 24 meeting were approved as corrected and amended.

### **Announcements:**

Senator Orlin reported on the recent faculty primary election. Orlin stated that an estimated 115-120 votes were cast. The final slate of candidates is now available for online voting for the Faculty Senate. A slate of six nominees for the Faculty Advancement Committee have been forwarded to Dean Bartanen. The Dean will select three from this list to begin serving on the FAC in the fall.

There was some confusion expressed by the senators regarding the policy for forwarding to the senate the total votes received by each finalist for the FAC. Haltom stated that the policy was set out in a motion in Faculty Senate in 1997 or 1998. The chair stated that he would clarify the policy and advise the senate.

The chair read a letter from Jim Davis thanking the faculty and the senate for honoring him with the proclamation and gift at his retirement reception.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

The reports presented to the Senate are appended as attachments. The following minutes reflect questions by the senators and responses by the committee chairs. If a committee's report directly addressed a senator's question, these minutes do not always reflect the exchange.

### **Professional Standards Committee (PSC), Carolyn Weisz, Chair**

Haltom referred to the following statement in the middle of the first paragraph on page 3 of the PSC report:

PSC members also noted that when no agreement can be reached through the formal process described in Chapter III, Section 4.a.(3)(e), a faculty member who feels harmed by a colleague's participation in an evaluation can file a formal grievance. A grievance, as defined in Chapter VI, Section 1.b., must allege a violation by act or omission of the obligations accorded the faculty member by contract of employment or by the Code.

Haltom then opined that that the appropriate way to resolve this type of issue is by referral to the PSC as provided in Chapter 1, Part D, Section 4 of the Faculty Code.

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Sousa, referring to pages 5 and 6 of the PSC report, asked the purpose of including in the “buff document” for 2006-2007, the University Mission Statement, the University Diversity Statement, and a slightly revised version of the statement by the FDC. Weisz responded that the PSC wanted to include for ease of reference all documents that are relevant to the evaluation process.

Orlin queried whether the issue of first year participation in faculty evaluations should be a charge to the 2006-07 PSC. Weisz noted that it was unintentionally omitted from the suggested charges listed on page 7, and that it would be included as a suggested charge for next year’s committee.

Hanson commended the PSC for its effort toward openness and detail in the committee’s minutes.

M/S/P that the report of the PSC be received.

**University Enrichment Committee (UEC), David Smith, Chair**

Hanson asked for some elaboration on Item 6 of the report regarding the reduction in student research awards top \$450. Smith replied that student requests have increased considerably and this year exceeded the UEC’s ability to fully fund them.

Holland asked if there were other sources of funds for student research. UEC chair stated that ASUPS has some funds available. Holland asked if all faculty research and travel grants were funded. Smith responded that they were, but not second requests.

M/S/P that the report of the UEC be received.

**University Curriculum Committee (UCC) Jim Jasinski, Chair**

Orlin and Bristow sought a clarification from the UCC chair concerning the First Year Seminar Policies. Specifically, Orlin was concerned about the notion of increasing enrollment limits in the seminars from 17 to 18 students. Jasinski explained that the UCC was giving direction to the registrar to allow up to 18 students if the professor requested it. The committee is also recommending a modification to the 5/01 curriculum statement to increase enrollment limits to 18 for all first year seminars. Holland asked if there was a “ground swell” among faculty to increase the limit to 18. Jasinski stated the UCC simply had a request to consider it. He is not aware of a ground swell.

Buescher asked if more faculty are being recruited to teach the seminars. Jasinski stated it was not the UCC’s responsibility to recruit faculty.

After a short additional discussion of several minor points in the report it was M/S/P to receive the UCC report.

**Library, Media, and Information Systems Committee (LMIS), Randolph Bentson, Chair**

Bentson distributed an updated version of the report to replace the original version sent to the senators earlier.

Buescher asked if the committee was considering future technology changes that may impact the creation and updating of electronic classrooms. Bentson assured the senate that this was being done. Hanson stated that this was a continuing process and it is difficult to pin point at any one time what will be required.

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Bristow asked about that status of Blackboard. Bentson explained that because of Blackboard's high cost and limited feature set, LMIS is investigating alternative course management systems for possible implementation the year after next.

Holland asked if Blackboard has resulted in a reduction in copying costs for the university, or are students simply printing out course documents. Bentson stated that there is evidence that most students do not print out course documents from Blackboard, but read them online. However, Bartanen reported that both last year and this year, the Library has incurred increased printing costs of \$10,000 - \$14,000 due to students printing out electronic resources on I-commons printers.

The senate noted LMIS concerns about the level of collaboration by OIS in the recent transition to the new e-mail and calendaring system, particularly about the committee not being informed that "some existing services being changed or dropped."

M/S/P that the LMIS report be received.

### **New Business**

Buescher moved that the University Curriculum Committee be charged to explore decreasing the enrollment limits in Writing and Rhetoric seminars to 16 per section, and increasing the limits in Scholarly and Creative Inquiry to 18 students per section. The motion was seconded. Buescher indicted that this would have the effect of freeing up faculty in some departments to teach other courses than Scholarly and Creative Inquiry. Holland opined that the faculty should address the larger issue of allocating responsibilities for teaching in the core.

Hanson moved that Buescher's motion be amended to generalize the charge without specifying particular enrollment limits. The motion to amend was seconded.

Several senators noted that a number of departments had lobbied them to reject an increase in enrollment limits to 18 students in the Writing and Rhetoric seminars. Bristow noted that the seminars are labor intensive and she is concerned about the load this places on faculty, and the impact this has on the effectiveness of the courses.

Orlin offered that it might be best to postpone discussion on this issue until the new senate convenes in the fall.

M/S to indefinitely postpone discussion on the main motion and the amendment. The motion passed with on a vote of 12 yeas, 1 nay, and no abstentions.

Senate Chair Anton expressed his appreciation to Senators Buescher, Lear, Maxwell, Orlin, and Wimberger, whose terms have expired.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Maxwell  
Scribbled Notes Translator Second Class

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