

Faculty Senate Minutes  
September 27, 2004

**Present:** Senators Anton, Bartanen (Academic Vice-President and Dean of the University), Beardsley (Chair of the Faculty Senate), Cunningham (ASUPS President), DeMarais, Edgoose, Foster, Haltom, Holland, Maxwell, Orlin

**Visitors:** Bentson, Buescher, Taranovski

Called to order by Senate Chair Beardsley at 4:05 PM

Amendments to Minutes: Chair Beardsley announced that the exchange with the Staff Senate is going forward and that the Staff Senate had amended their By-Laws. The amendment to the Faculty Bylaws to have a staff member join the Faculty Senate will be considered by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees at its October meeting.

Beardsley reported that a liaison from the Student Life Committee (SLC) (which was suggested by the SLC, not the Senate as indicated in previous Senate minutes) to the Master Plan Implementation Committee was moving ahead.

Announcements:

Meeting dates for the Faculty Senate were affirmed for the semester. An adjustment was made because of a conflict with a scheduled faculty meeting on October 25. The final schedule is as follows:

- October 11
- November 1
- November 15
- November 29
- December 13

Chair Report: Beardsley reported that Associate Dean Finney provided information from accreditation documents regarding length of semesters in response to Senator Holland's request. Finney reported that exam week is counted in the tally of weeks in a semester. This implied that there was flexibility in how the schedule is determined. Standard 2.A.6 in the 2003 Accreditation Handbook of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities states: "The institution is able to equate its learning experiences with semester or quarter credit hours using practices common to institutions of higher education, and to justify the lengths of its programs in comparison to similar programs found in regionally accredited institutions of higher education, and to justify any program-specific tuition in terms of program costs, program length, and program objectives." Finney interpreted, "At the equivalent of fourteen weeks of instruction plus a final exam week our semesters are acceptably in compliance with standard 2.A.6. Many semester schools have fifteen weeks of instruction plus a final exam week. Our justification for claiming an appropriate length of term is our claim that the final exam

week is to be considered a part of the semester in which instruction and learning takes place." (Finney, 9/27/04). Issues included fall break , safety concerns about thanksgiving break, and the effects any changes would have on staff, workstudy, and advising.

#### Special Orders:

Senator Holland reported that UPS was second in the nation in indebtedness per student. She wanted the Senate to send a resolution to the Board of Trustees voicing faculty and student concerns about this issue.

Senator Cunningham also discussed using an on-line rating system for student evaluations of faculty teaching.

Senator Maxwell requested more details about the Medical Benefits consortium. Bartanen reported that two schools in Washington did not want to be part of the consortium and this created a roadblock.

Senator Foster said that the Faculty Salary Committee will investigate benefits as part of their work in response to Senator Holland's concerns about the quality of UPS's long-term Disability Policy. Her concern focused on the provision rule that faculty and staff have to pay their medical insurance premiums if they become disabled.

#### Old Business: Charges to Standing Committees

LMAC Committee: LMAC discussed the following issues for possible discussion this year.

- A. Review the committee's role and function as described in the by-laws.
- B. Replacement process for faculty computers, with particular emphasis on laptop options.
- C. Review the proposed list of items from OIS for discussion by LMAC
  - 1) Academic technology strategy
  - 2) Laptops for faculty
  - 3) Academic software acquisition and funding
  - 4) Academic servers (BlackBoard, digital assets, streaming media, Projects, etc.)
  - 5) E-texts for students with disabilities
  - 6) BlackBoard/Courseware support and future development
  - 7) Electronic (Smart) classroom design
  - 8) Identifying and installing additional electronic classrooms
  - 9) DVD playback in classrooms
  - 10) DVD playback in classrooms for zones other than US (region 1)
  - 11) Faculty project/programming support: Academic technology Consultant to Humanities and Social Sciences.
  - 12) Wireless access points: future development and timetables.

13) Remote maintenance/troubleshooting of classroom projection systems.

In addition to the above: Two other charges were suggested: Senator Holland raised the issue of spam on university computers and moved to add a charge to LMAC that they investigate more effective email filters to remove spam. Senator DeMarais suggested the possible procurement and use of anti-plagiarism software.

M/S/P to assign these charges to the Committee.

Academic Standards Committee (ASC):

ASC Chair Hamel reported that the ASC would be working on the following charges this year:

- A. Discussion of implementing the requirement that students have an academic advisor in their major
- B. Discussion of faculty/staff recommendation that Pass/Fail option for classes be eliminated
- C. Discussion of the possibility of having a commencement valedictorian, as proposed by President Thomas
- D. Discussion of eliminating Pass/Fail options for Study-Abroad courses.

In addition, the Faculty Senate charged the ASC, "To create a mechanism whereby Connections courses may be listed in Cascade and any other course listings under the departments of their instructors with the heading, 'The following courses are also taught by 'X' department faculty.' "

M/S/P to accept the Committee's suggestions for charges and add the additional Senate charge.

Professional Standards Committee (PSC):

In addition to the standing charge of ongoing review of evaluation standards and procedures, the PSC will be looking into the definition of "working days" and blending Code interpretations into the new Code. In addition, former Senator Loeb ((5/3/04) requested the Senate discuss the issue of developing a mechanism for PSC to report more detailed minutes, or a summary of PSC meetings that includes important information about Code interpretation and decisions in a manner that not does not violate the confidentiality or anonymity of a case.

Arguments were made that "non-formal" interpretations of the code do not have the validity of a precedent. Haltom suggested 1) that the PSC could take minutes for its own reference only, and 2) that the PSC could determine how to notify the Senate or the faculty of interpretations that the PSC determined not to be of sufficient merit to be reported to the trustees. The internal minutes could be about procedures and grievances and assure accountability and consistency with confidentiality. The PSC's institutional memory could thus be preserved as PSC members cycle off the PSC. The notification of the Senate (that the PSC had interpreted the Faculty Code but had not found "substantial

merit" in its interpretation) might require some bowdlerization but could raise awareness of how the PSC has rendered the code.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry S. Anton