

Minutes

Faculty Senate, March 1, 2011

Plaza Room, Administrative Center, 3 p.m.

Present: Ebersole, McArthur, Stancel, Burnett, Wyckoff, Pick, Durig, Peng, Baker, Mutti-Burke, Bloemker, Thiagarajan, Madison-Cannon, Sherburn, Rice, Nilsson, Wang, Carbone, Luppino, Alleman, Yang, Krantz, Stanley, Johnston, Bethman

Excused: Ward-Smith, Plamann, Gardner, Hinds, Fincham

Absent: Mirkin, Holt, Hermanns

Guests: Provost Hackett; Doug Swink (Registrar); Curt Crespino (University Advancement) Kati Toivanen (Chair of Art and Art History);

Welcome at 3 p.m. Called to order by the Chair, Gary Ebersole, who introduced our guests.

Informational Items

1. Ron MacQuarrie will be present at the next meeting, March 15.
2. The All Faculty General Meeting is scheduled for April 5 at Diastole, 3-5 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Senator Wyckoff moved approval of the Agenda, and Senator Yang seconded the motion. All Approved.

Approval of Minutes

Senator Krantz moved approval of the Minutes from February 15, 2011 and IFC representative McArthur seconded the motion. All Approved.

Provost's Remarks: Gail Hackett

The Provost gave a handout announcement of the Faculty and Staff Awards Ceremony on March 8th and invited all to attend the recognition event.

The Provost introduced Doug Swink to talk about the proposal to change the Spring Break calendar. He explained that the current schedule was set in 2005 for all four campuses in the Collected Rules and Regulations (CRR 20.140). Despite the desired shift in dates, the Senate's proposal maintains flexibility for professional schools and all are supportive of the Senate's proposal. There is a companion proposal brought to the Senate to move the start date of the Spring semester to after MLKing jr. Day. The motion by Senator Baker and seconded by Senator Luppino was to support the start date calendar change as soon as it is possible for implementation. The vote was unanimous. The proposal to change Spring Break was approved at the last Senate meeting. Both proposals now move forward to the Chancellor.

New Art Acceptance Policy: Kati Toivanen and Curt Crespino

Dr. Toivanen explained the needs for a campus policy to receive gifts of art from the community that involves consultation with the faculty of the Art Department. Once this discussion was begun, it was also discovered that there is an immediate need to inventory the art that is currently possessed by the University. The Art and Art History Department has been involved in shaping the draft policy presented to the Senate. Curt Crespino explained that ten institutions were surveyed for their best practices in this area and he feels confident that the draft policy is quite inclusive of issues that should be considered. The draft policy creates an Art Review Committee which will begin with a complete inventory by the end of the summer. Outside appraisals might be needed. At present, the draft policy is silent on the holdings of the Libraries but such consideration is still in process. Senators raised questions about immediate and long term costs, insurance coverage and expanding the definition of art to include such things as historical artifacts. Answers to these questions won't be available until the inventory is complete. Then matters relating to how to maintain the current inventory and how future donors can endow their gifts' maintenance will be explored.

The Senate was asked to endorse the establishment of the Art Review Committee. Senator Wyckoff moved and Senator Yang seconded. The vote is unanimous.

Faculty Senate Budget Committee: Tony Luppino

Senator Luppino explained that the Faculty Senate Budget Committee has been doing two essential things: monitoring the University Budget Committee (UBC) as it sets revenues for 2012 and providing input on the Retirement plan discussions. He reported that the proposed state cuts are not as severe as feared, although they are still substantial (7%). The Curators did approve tuition increases. The UBC is encouraging 2% raises, however nothing is final yet, since the Missouri legislature is not finished with its budgeting decision-making.

The letter sent to the Special Advisory Committee about the Retirement Plan study focused on three things.

1. It questioned the assumption that the current plan is not viable.
2. It asked for clarification about the phrase purporting 'no harm.' Did they mean no harm to the plan or to existing employees?
3. Assuming we won't let new people into the 'old plan', how should the plan look?

The FSBC and its subcommittee are revising the recommendations letter to be a paper for the Curators. They will especially ask what it means to say the University will manage two plans 'in the aggregate.' They will also stress that the Curators shouldn't make changes without knowing the impact of those changes.

Chair Ebersole served on the Special Advisory Committee and remarked that there are still a lot of questions outstanding, for example, what if current employees decide to cash out of the Defined Benefit plan? It will be important to educate faculty and staff about handling a Defined Contributions plan. It is also important that the Stabilization fund be made permanent. He also wants a statement of intention when it is proposed to 'hold people harmless.'

Verification of Voting Faculty lists: Tom Johnston

All units are loaded into Blackboard except the College of A&S and the Law School. Vice Chair Ward-Smith wants those lists by Thursday to be able to run the Dean's Evaluations for two weeks before Spring Break.

No other committee Reports.

The Faculty Senate went into a closed Executive Session to consider a recommendation to award an honorary degree. After discussion, Senator Madison-Cannon made the motion to approve the nominee and Senator Carbone seconded the recommendation. The motion passed.

Adjourned at 4:58 p.m.