**Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting**

May 2, 2013

Bump Conference Room

**I. Call to order**

Chair Ed Corwin called the meeting to order shortly after 11:00 AM.

**II. Roll call**

Senators present: Drs. David Boyles, Al Boysen, Robert Corey, William Cross, Marius Ellingsen, Adam French, Jason Henry, Stanley Howard, Travis Kowalski, Timothy Masterlark, Frank Matejcik, Larry Stetler, Charles Tolle, and Frank Van Nuys.

**III. Approval of agenda**

The agenda, amended to include a discussion of parking, was approved.

**IV. Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the April 11 meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved.

**V. Report from the chair**

1. *President and provost*. With the hiring of President Heather Wilson, Acting President Hrncir will resume is position as Provost. According to Dr. Corwin, Dr. Hrncir fully intends to be here at SDSMT.
2. *BOR meeting*. Scheduled for May 14 – 16 in Brookings. Dr. Corwin will be unable to attend, and invited other Senators to participate in his absence.
3. *Funds*. Funds for the next year will be tight. However, while there is no current plan to *cut* positions or programs, there is also no plan to actively grow them either. For example, Tim Henderson’s vacated post will not be immediately filled.

**VI. Committee reports**

* The standing committees had nothing to report.

**VII. Old business**

*MOOCs*. While the Senate engaged in no new discussion of the pros/cons of MOOCs, it was noted that Dr. Sue Shirley has been added to the ad hoc committee investigating their use. It was also noted that Dr. Patty Anderson had provided many articles on MOOCs in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

**VIII. New business**

1. *Parking*. Dr. Ellingsen was asked by his department to discuss issues relating to parking on campus, noting concerns such as lack of communication regarding parking enforcement (in particular, the move to 24/7 ticketing), chaotic and inconsistent enforcement thereof, and lack of available parking stalls (especially given the desired growth of the institution to some 3500 students). Among the discussions of particular interest:
   * Senators expressed concern over the role and constituency of the Parking Committee, noting that it is a 10-person administrative body with only a *single* faculty representative (Roger Schrader), it does not have a Senate representative on it, and it does not report it policies to the Senate. Moreover, since parking policies implicitly affect the curriculum (specifically by their ability to inhibit student and faculty ability to access the campus at necessary hours), it is reasonable that the committee should include a representative appointed by the Senate. Senators in general felt the need to increase the faculty representation on the committee.
   * Senators felt that a “hierarchical” parking scheme, in which a faculty parking permit was also valid in student parking places, is a worthwhile alternative parking scheme to employ. Many Senators noted that this was, in fact, a common policy among our comparable institutions.
   * Dr. Corwin will investigate who on campus gives the final approval for parking policy and advocate having a Senate-appointed representative made a part of the process.

Following the discussion, the following motion was made by Drs. Cross and Ellingsen:

* *Motion 1: Faculty parking designation.* Given that the role of the faculty is to serve the students, and the current lack of faculty parking spaces interferes with this, it is proposed that a new *faculty* *designation* parking permit be made available, which would allow for parking in any regularly marked parking stall during the academic year (with stalls designated for handicapped use or fire lanes excluded).

The motion passed with unanimous approval. (Dr. Howard further moved to note that the vote was unanimous.) Dr. Cross made a second motion:

* *Motion 2: Parking committee*. Given that parking policies have a nontrivial impact on the curriculum and responsibilities of the faculty, it is proposed that parking policies must be approved by the Faculty Senate. In particular, the representation of the committee would be amended to include a representative appointed by the Senate.

In the subsequent discussion, some Senators felt that this would be a good “back-up” motion, noting that the implementation of the first would solve many of the issues raised by the Senators. The second motion passed with 14 voting in favor, and 1 opposed.

1. *New member.* The Senate welcomed Dr. Timothy Masterlark, who will replace Dr. Stetler as the representative from Geology and Geological Engineering.
2. *Commencement.* Dr. Stetler indicated his willingness to continue as the faculty representative on the Commencement Committee, so which the Senate agreed. Senators also briefly discussed resurrecting the former policy of having the faculty seated in the risers process by rank.
3. *Last items*. Senators asked about, and Dr. Corwin agreed to look into, the current state of several issues brought before the Senator over the year, including:
   * *Emeritus policy:* what is the current status of the *Emeritus Professor* policy, and have the concerns expressed at the general faculty meeting had been addressed?
   * *Lecturer oversight:* should the Senate have an official position regarding professorial oversight in the Lecturer ranks?
   * *Plus/minus grading:* have the chairs proposed a new policy regarding reinstating +/- grades, and if so, what is it?

**IX. Adjournment**

Senate meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.