**Minutes of the Spring All Faculty Meeting**

March 25, 2014

Classroom Building 203

Chair Ed Corwin called the meeting to order shortly after 4 pm. There were 13 members of the faculty present.

**General discussion of issues**

1. *Report from the Nominating Committee*. The Nominating Committee announced the names of three candidates for the Chair of Faculty: Drs. James Feiszli, Rod Rice, and Karim Muci. There followed a general discussion of the logistics of the voting. Though tasked to the Nominating Committee for their final form, it was likely to be a written secret ballot administered in April. The motion to close the nominations for Chair passed unanimously.
2. *GenEd changes.* With the retiring of one of GenEd’s prime motivator, perhaps it is the appropriate time to make a case to the BOR that changes in the GenEd program are warranted. Representatives on the science/engineering side wondered why engineering students needed to take all their humanities/social science courses during the first 2 years, and only at the 100-200 level? They expressed that GenEd had watered down the humanities courses, which had once been stronger when made to reflect SDSMT’s mission. Moreover, delaying actual engineering courses until the 3rd and 4th year means students don’t have a real exposure to their major for *years*. Representatives on the humanities side wondered what the effects would be on humanities courses without GenEd: knowing that students don’t take non-required courses, who *would* take a 300-level H/SS course? In the absence of GenEd or institutional graduation requirements (IGRs, which SDSMT does not have), what prevents a program from killing H/SS requirements? This opens a logistical can of worms for the Humanities/Social Science department.

Discussion eventually centered on two main action items:

* The Senate (or an appropriate sub-committee) will draft a thorough, carefully designed survey for the faculty to determine its will regarding the future of GenEd or IGRs.
* The Faculty supports the effort to have **MUS 117: Music Performance**, count towards GenEd credit. This motion passed unanimously.
1. *Student travel for non-athletic reasons.* Athletic students cannot travel to off-campus events if they are doing poorly in their classes. However, this is not true of other types of students: they could, for example, fail trig but still go to a society conference. It was noted that something similar was enforced when CAMP started, although it was less clear it was enforced today. It was proposed that students on academic probation be disallowed to travel; the likely office to police students would be the Dean of Students. A motion to have the Dean of Students attend the next Senate Meeting to discuss her concerns with both the issue in question and the proposed policy passed unanimously.
2. *Honor codes.* Should the faculty work with the student government to form a university honor code? Faculty discussed whether an honor code would change the campus culture, although they noted that a well-stated honor code makes explicit and clear to students what is considered *wrong*. The previous motion was informally amended to also have the Dean of Students discuss this with the Senate.
3. *Miscellany.* In preparation for President Wilson’s attendance at the next Senate meeting, Dr. Corwin asked the faculty for questions to bring forward to her. Issues included administrative searches (like the current VPRA search, or the upcoming Provost search), the status of the university debt and the related the laying-off of soft-money positions.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.