

Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting

13 October 2011

Faculty Senate Meeting

October 13, 2011 11:00 am-12:30 pm

Bump Conference Room in Surbeck Center

I. Call to Order

II. Roll call

Senate Chair Dr. Stan Howard called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. Senators present: Drs. Pat Gilcrease, David Boyles, Thomas Fontaine, Charles Tolle, Larry Stetler, Frank Matjick, Bill Cross, Travis Kowalski, Marius Ellingsen, John Dreyer, Michael Foygel.

Dr. Al Boysen arrived during the meeting

Drs. Adam French and Purushotham Tukkaraja were in attendance as proxies for Drs. P. V. Sundareshwar and Chuck Kliche, respectively

III. Approval of Agenda

Approved upon motion by Dr. Cross and second by Dr. Ellingsen

IV. Approval of Minutes - 8 Sept 2011 minutes—minutes approved

Some discussion regarding the 9-12 month payout proposal discussed at Sept. meeting

V. Report from Chair

A. Changes to IDEA course evaluation procedures discussed:

- i. Moving to less frequent evaluations for long-term/tenured faculty (every 3 yrs/third offering of the course)
- ii. Maintaining regular (each course) evaluations for non-tenured faculty
- iii. Implementing a shorter evaluation form

B. Faculty Expectations

- i. Document needs to be reviewed, available on senate website:
http://www.hpcnet.org/senate_misc#x (see "Performance Standards")

C. Student Advising

- i. Task force being formed: Drs. Dryer, Stetler, and Cross volunteered

D. Curriculum change Procedures

- i. Upcoming reduction in credit hours will require formal change of program process –will be run through dept. chairs

E. Meeting our mission statement

- i. Need to ensure if courses are cut to meet credit hour reduction that doing so does not go against mission statement

VI. New Committee Assignments

- A. Dr. Ellingsen moved to academic affairs committee
- B. Dr. Kliche moved to academic affairs committee
- C. Dr. Kowalski made chair of finance and personnel committee
- D. Dr. Gilcrease moved to student affairs committee
- E. Dr. Dreyer made chair of student affairs committee

VII. Committee Reports

A. Academic Affairs

- 1. Dr. Logar presented a proposed change to the catalog that would require PhD candidates to have defended their dissertation and completed all necessary requirements for graduation prior to being hooded/participating in commencement**

Some discussion followed as to whether students should be allowed to “walk” at graduation but not be “hooded”. It was suggested that the wording the catalog be clarified with regards to exactly what the new policy entails

Motion by Dr. Stetler to approve the proposed change with clarified language, seconded by Dr. Boyles approved.

- 2. Dr. Logar presented a proposal from the Council of Graduate Education to allow departments to begin planning for 5-year BS/MS programs. Primary change would entail allowing “double counting” of some credit hours for both the BS and MS degree.**

Some discussion followed regarding whether this would be a thesis/non-thesis MS, some specifics regarding requirements, advantages/disadvantages and whether this move is a BOR System-wide move or more local. Point was also raised that current programs that do not offer any 500/600 level courses would be excluded from this opportunity by default.

Motion by Dr. Boyles to allow this proposal for planning 5-yr BS/MS degrees to move forward, seconded by Dr. Cross with the comment that “senate approval” should be added to the process, approved.

- 3. Dr. Logar presented some information on the development of dual MS degrees in the future, mainly in the interest of getting feedback from the senate**

Discussion followed as to what the demand for such programs would be. It was presumed to be mainly situations such as getting degrees in an engineering field along with engineering/construction management, to improve student’s professional development. Additional discussion focused around how undergraduate pre-requisites for such programs might work, and concerns that this would not be possible for two research-based MS degrees. General consensus of senate was that this would be okay for certain circumstances (i.e. engineering and construction management degrees).

- 4. Dr. Cross presented the most recent set of curriculum change requests , details available online at: (<http://www.hpcnet.org/curriculum-october2011>).**

New Course Request:

CEE 651 Advanced Steel Design

CEE 731/731L Current Topics in Water Quality Assessment

Revised Course Request: Common Course

EM 331 Fluid Mechanics

Existing Courses: Minor Modification Requests

ATM 404/504 Atmospheric Thermodynamics

ATM 570 Wildfire Meteorology
CSC/CENG 314/314L Assembly Language
CEE 357/357L Theory and Design of Metal Structures
ENVE 307 Environmental Geostatistics
ENVE 315 Fundamentals of Heat Transfer
ENVE 316 Fundamentals of Mass Transfer
GEOE 461 Title Petroleum Production
GEOE 462 Drilling and Completion Engineering
GEOL 214L Mineralogy for Mining Engineers
MUS 217/217L Music in Performance I
MUS 317/317L Music in Performance II
PHYS 790 Graduate Seminar

Committee recommended that all requests be approved. Senate approved all requests.

- 5. Faculty expectation documents were assigned to committee for review**
- 6. Common Exam time was adjusted by 30 minutes to accommodate band practice**

- B. Research and Scholarly Affairs** –no report
- C. Finance and Personnel**–no report
- D. Student Affairs**–no report
- E. University Relations**–no report
- F. By-Laws Committee**–no report

VIII. New Business

- A. Senate meetings will continue to be the 2nd Thursday of each month at 11 am.**
- B. Meeting with Gary Aguiar from COHE**

Dr. Howard proposed having a special meeting with Gary Aguiar of COHE when he is in town on Dec. 13th. It was decided to make this meeting separate from the Dec. Senate meeting and to make it to all faculty.

- C. Dr. Ellingsen raised concerns from his dept. over the recent parking changes, namely the removal of “blue” spots near the civil/mechanical engineering and classroom buildings.**

Discussion followed, main consensus was that faculty should have more involvement/more of a voice in parking decisions. Dr. Howard will discuss the procedures with Dr. Hrcir and will ask Dave Bridge to attend the next senate meeting to discuss these changes.

IX. Old Business

- A. Dr. Kowalski presented some findings of his study into changes in student opinion survey responses following the change to the online-only IDEA forms. Overall student response rates are down approximately 20% from the final years of the paper forms, however campus-wide the average instructor scores have not changed a great deal. Generally, some improvement in response rate (approx. 10%) can be seen when the surveys are taken online in class rather than via email.**

Discussion that followed suggested that individual results are much more variable, with the decline in response rate corresponding to lower survey scores, implying that the dissatisfied students are more frequently taking the survey. Additionally, since moving to the online forms instructors are seeing a rise in angrier, more derogatory or even abusive comments on the forms. Concerns were raised that this presents a serious problem in terms of these forms being used as part of the tenure/promotion process. It was recommended that the review of past survey results should continue, and the impact that these surveys on tenure/promotion should be discussed with Dr. Hrcir.

B. Motion raised by Dr. Cross to amend some misquotations and to remove names from discussion in the September minutes as was done previously. Motion passed

C. There was some further discussion on the subject of the reduction of required credit hours, tabled at the September meeting

The discussion revolved around where the BOR was in terms of making a decision, and whether the senate should weigh in with an opinion. There was some talk of drafting a statement to send to the BOR, but nothing was decided formally.

X. Other

XI. Adjournment