

## **Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting**

November 13, 2014

Bump Lounge

### **I. Call to order**

Dr. Rice called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

### **II. Roll Call**

Senators present: Drs. Alfred Boysen (HUM), Robert Corey (Physics), Marius Ellingsen (ME), Thomas Fontaine (CEE), Patrick Gilcrease (CBE), Jason Henry (Athletics and PE), Timothy Masterlark (GEOL/GEOE), Frank Matejcik (IE), Mengyu Qiao (MCS), Charles Tolle (ECE), Purushotham Tukkaraja (MEM), Zhengtau Zhu (CABS).

Others present: Drs. Ed Corwin (Immediate Past President), Stanley Howard for William Cross (METE), Doug Wells (Dean of Graduate Education), Sangchul Bang (Degrees Committee Chair), Carter Kerk (Faculty Athletic Representative), and Mr. Jerry Schafer (Director of Cross Country).

### **III. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mengyu Qiao.

### **IV. Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the October 9, 2014 meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved.

### **V. Report from the Chair**

Dr. Rice reported that he had met with President Wilson on 7 November and she suggested that he invite the Vice President for Finance & Administration and the Director of Finance/Controller to the December Senate meeting to discuss the SDSMT budget. Dr. Rice also reported that the feasibility of the Mines Medal Award ceremony is being reconsidered. The annual award was designed to bring nationwide recognition and serve as a fundraiser for SDSMT; however, to date it has not fulfilled these expectations. As a result, the University Cabinet is considering eliminating or modifying the award. At the Cabinet meeting, Dr. Sinden indicated that faculty and staff can expect additional information or training on FERPA guidelines. As well, Steve Malott added that the new University Wellness Center is on schedule for its April 2015 completion date.

### **VI. Committee reports**

The Standing Committees had nothing to report.

## VII. Old Business

- A. *Emeritus Policy.* Dr. Rice noted that the proposed Emeritus policy had been approved at the November University Cabinet meeting.
- B. *Admissions advertising.* Dr. Sinden recommended inviting Dr. Gunn to a future Senate meeting to discuss the admission requirements. The Senate felt that the January meeting would be an appropriate time for that discussion.

## VIII. New Business

- A. *Graduation lists.* Dr. Sangchul Bang presented the B.S. graduation list approved by the Degrees Committee. The senate motion to approve the list passed unanimously. Similarly, Dr. Doug Wells presented the M.S./Ph.D. graduation list approved by the Council on Graduate Education. Dr. Howard made a motion to approve the graduation list as presented and it was seconded by Dr. Fontaine. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. *Track schedule and spring final Exams.* Coach Jerry Schafer met with the Senate to discuss the proposed final conference track meet dates for Spring 2015, which may overlap with a portion of the SDSMT final exam schedule. Coach Schafer indicated that the schedule is not determined locally and is a function of decisions at the conference level that are approved by respective conference university presidents. Although the number of affected students is indeterminate at this time, Coach Schafer requested leniency to reschedule students for finals. The motion was seconded by Dr. Boysen and approved. Dr. Howard also volunteered to provide software to facilitate identifying affected professors and students.
- C. *Emeritus request.* The Senate motioned and unanimously approved the recommendation for Emeritus status for Dr. Arden Davis. Dr. Stanley Howard made a motion and Dr. Fontaine seconded. The letters and proclamations will be forwarded to President Wilson for approval.
- D. *Curriculum requests.* Acting on behalf of the Curriculum Committee, Dr. Matejcik presented the November curricular requests, indicating the following the committee felt warranted discussion: *CIP code Artificial Intelligence/ Computational Sciences.* After the discussion, Dr. Charles Tolle made a motion to approve all remaining November curriculum requests and it was seconded by Dr. Marius Ellingsen. The motion passed unanimously.
- E. *BOR Senate visit.* The BOR scheduled a meeting with the Senate for Tuesday, December 2, 2014. Dr. Rice said he would monitor the BOR website for detailed agenda.
- F. *Steve Malott and Heather Forney invite to December Senate meeting.*  
The Senate wanted to know whether the period of the budget cuts to the departments was short or long term and what the school's budget deficit was. To address these and other budget questions, Dr. Rice will invite Steve Malott (Vice President for Finance and

Administration), and Heather Forney (Director of Finance/Controller) to the December Senate meeting.

- G. *COHE representative.* In response to a question posed by Human Resources, Dr. Rice asked for input on whether the replacement for Dr. Boyles, the SDSMT COHE representative, was a Senate issue. Dr. Howard responded that it was a COHE issue, not a Faculty Senate one, an observation independently confirmed by Dr. Boyles in a private email to Dr. Rice.

## **XI. Other**

- Dr. Rice received an email from Dr. Jon Kellar requesting Senate assistance in identifying and developing a consistent policy addressing deficient academic performance and eligibility for student travel. Dr. Rice asked the Student Affairs Committee, headed by Dr. Gilcrease, to investigate, discuss findings with the Senate, and make a policy recommendation at a future date.
- The Standing Committees list circulated by Dr. Rice in September needs revision. Dr. Rice will provide the updated list to the senators in the December meeting.
- Dr. Howard presented a motion to the Senate requesting permission to query the BOR concerning the approval of faculty taking undergraduate courses. The motion was seconded by Dr. Marius Ellingsen and passed. The primary rationale for seeking BOR approval for this request is to allow foreign faculty members who have not taken ABET accredited undergraduate courses in their respective schools to complete them in order to qualify for the FE Exam. A secondary reason is to provide an avenue for faculty to attain continuing education credits or broaden their knowledge base.

## **IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.