

Minutes of the faculty senate meeting  
April 12, 2012

- I. Call to order—quorum present
- II. Roll call—Present: Drs. Howard, Gilcrease, Boyles, Fontaine, Tolle, Stetler, Matejcik, Ellingsen, Dryer; Dr. French as proxy for Dr. Sundareshwar; Dr. Boysen arrived at 11:45; Absent with regrets: Drs. Kliche, Cross, Kowalski
- III. Approval of agenda—approved
- IV. Approval of minutes—approved with following conditions:
  - a. Dr. Howard will update where indicated
  - b. Clarification: Curriculum requests point (a) should read “Geo/Geol. methods course was tabled”
- V. Report from chair
  - a. Chair election—Had several candidates, none were willing/able to accept nomination, and no additional candidates were nominated at the general faculty meeting. Do have an additional potential candidate willing to accept pending availability. This situation is not covered by Senate bylaws, will proceed with as discussed under “old business” below.
  - b. Senator elections—Elections completed: GEO/GEOL ENG (Dr. Larry Stetler), ATM SCI (Dr. Adam French), IE (Dr. Frank Matejcik), HUM (Dr. Al Boysen), SS (Dr. Frank Van Nuys), EECE (Dr. Chip Tolle), CEE (Dr. Tom Fontaine), MCS (Dr. Travis Kowalski). Reminder that senators should not be appointed by department chairs. Question raised regarding apparent apathy/lack of interest in participation in faculty senate. Consensus is that people are busy, and there is currently no “controversy” to draw interest.
  - c. Cabinet items—April 5, 2012
    - i. Provost: Employee awards being moved Honors Day so students know more about it, and it will be a more formal ceremony. Awardees selected, but not announced. Recommend upping Presidential award to \$3k.  
Upcoming presidential strategy sessions (April 12-13) and University Advisory Board meeting (April 17).  
2013 calendar – Fall graduation will likely be held on Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> (2 days after finals end), which is favored by the students. There are concerns about faculty/student attendance at graduation, faculty favors Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>.  
\$500k to SDSM&T for performance goals—Guidelines will be provided by regents, likely that some of these funds will be available to faculty.
    - ii. Facilities: New seating in EP 252; Stadium lighting improvements underway; New black top ramp stadium, Surbeck, Dorms
    - iii. Foundation: Doug Aldrich is March Medalist; Alumni recognition dinner will be held April 21 in the old gym.
    - iv. Finance: Finalizing SDSM&T budgets for next year; New Center construction begins in July.

- v. Grad office: Brisk applications; Last stages of Dean search; Rachel Howard now main contact.
- vi. HR: Contracts will be coming in early May; Retirement fair April 26 (9-2)
- vii. Career service: New chair to be elected

VI. Committee Reports

a. Academic affairs—

- i. Graduate degrees – Dr. Logar: Removed Chad Tambornino from EE; Brian Schochenmaier from RIAS –Motion to approve list with deletions, allowing for additional additions/deletions to be approved by email vote. Dr. Tolle motion, Dr. Ellingsen second. Motion passed.
- ii. Undergrad. Degrees—Dr. West: Motion to approve current list with additional additions/deletions to be approved by email vote. Dr. Tolle motion, Dr. Stetler second. Motion passed.
- iii. Curriculum requests—Dr. Ellingsen: Discussion of renewable and sustainable energy course (CBE 485/585)—ensure that economic aspects included as it is an engineering course. Questions regarding content of laboratory section of course; Discussion of Geo./ Geol. Eng. graduate course changes—Changing requirements to remove core course requirements to create more individualized courses of study; Discussion of changes to BS computer sci.— concerns regarding removal of diff. eq. , would like some more clarification as to reasoning; Motion to approve list with exception of BS in computer sci., which can be approved via email vote if needed. Motion passes. Can reconsider changes to BS in comp sci at May meeting.

iv. Faculty expectations –continuing

- b. Research and scholarly affairs—no report
- c. Finance and personnel—no report
- d. Student affairs—no report
- e. University Relations—no report
- f. Bylaws committee—May propose some changes at May meeting so that they can be presented to the faculty at the general meeting in September.
- g. Nominating committee—no report
- h. Ad. Hoc. Proposed modifications to general education requirements—Dr. Ellingsen
  - i. Current BOR policy dictates that all system gen. ed. requirements must be completed within first 64 credit hours. There are two exceptions to this rule, which apply to most SDSM&T departments: 1) Tech. Com. II (ENG 289) can be taken as a Junior (fall semester), and 2) One social science course can be taken after sophomore year.
  - ii. Committee recommends two modifications to these: 1) Expand these exceptions to all engineering and science majors; 2) Extend time frame for ENG 289 (tech. com. II) to entire junior year, including summer. This includes recommendation from HSS faculty, which fully support these changes. Comments: Suggest re-wording point one “to apply to all bachelor of science

degrees at SDSM&T”; Suggest including mention of reduction to 130 CR being a motivator for changes—will be included in transmittal letter to be included with approval. Motion: to approve changes and pass proposed modification of gen. ed. requirements on to BOR pending additional wordsmithing/cleaning up language—motion passed.

VII. Old business

- a. Procedure for new senate chair: Will email call for additional nominations. If only one person nominated, that person will become the new chair. If more than one nomination, a written ballot election will be held. Currently expecting to have one nominee, hope to install them as chair at the May Senate meeting. If this fails to happen, Dr. Howard will continue as chair until elections in fall.

VIII. New business—none

IX. Other

- a. May senate meeting will be considered “general faculty” meeting to facilitate election of new Senate chair.
- b. Next general faculty meeting will be in September.

X. Adjournment