

Faculty Senate Executive Council
MINUTES
September 10, 2012

Present: Steve Thomas, Fritz Polite, Vincent Anfara, Ralph Brockett, Guoxun Chen, Chris Cimino, Phillip Daves, David Golden, Scott Gilpatric, Lee Han, John Koontz, Bruce MacLennan, Susan Martin, David Mathews, Stephanie Ohnesorg, David Patterson, Matthew Theriot

Guests: Alexandria Chiasson, Danielle South

I. CALL TO ORDER

S. Thomas called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

President's Report (S. Thomas)

S. Thomas had distributed a written report in advance of the meeting. After asking if there were any questions about it, he made the following oral additions to that report.

- He had learned, only today, that Dr. Henry Frandsen, a past president of the Faculty Senate, passed away on Thursday, September 6, 2012. Dr. Frandsen made significant contributions to the University before retiring as Professor Emeritus in 1998.
- The Senate's *Bylaws* (as well as *Roberts Rules of Order*) indicate that the main purpose of the minutes for a meeting is to reflect the actions of the body rather than the discussion of the members. Thomas stated that he would like to see us return to this format, starting with this meeting.

Chancellor's Report (J. Cheek)

No report given.

Provost's Report (S. Martin)

A Task Force to address teacher evaluations has been formed. This is important in the evaluation of metrics and our quest for Top 25 status.

In answer to a question from P. Daves concerning the academic freedom / freedom of speech resolution passed by the Senate in April 2012, S. Martin said that she knew Chancellor Cheek was considering but she did not have any information about the status beyond that fact.

S. Martin thanked the Senate for allowing the initial round of promotions from lecturer to senior lecturer to proceed last year while the guidelines were still being refined. Nearly 50 lecturers received this much deserved recognition. The number of promotions was limited, to insure these individuals could receive ten-percent raises. An additional round of promotions will be considered this year and, most likely, for several years to come. This first round had focused on teaching faculty, but consideration may be given to extending it to clinical faculty as well.

Conflict on summer school funding model was raised by the Deans. Summer model is extremely unclear. A summer school model task force is being formulated. It is a very complicated process. The academic mission and the push for Top 25 are both important in analyzing the summer school model.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2012, meeting was made by D. Patterson, with a second provided by S. Gilpatric. Minutes were approved as submitted.

Change to Agenda (S. Thomas)

By common consent, the agenda was amended to allow our guest to make her presentation. Ms. Chiasson, representing herself and fellow students Brianna Rader and Jacob Clark of Sexual Empowerment and Awareness at Tennessee (SEAT), discussed the package of materials distributed in advance of the meeting. This unofficial student organization is seeking to organize and present – during the spring term – a “Sex Week” program modeled on similar programs held over the past ten years at Yale, Harvard, Brown, and other universities. Following discussion, it was agreed by common consent to receive this report as information but to make no recommendation to the Senate for action, since SEAT is an unofficial student organization.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Non-Tenure Track Faculty Proposal (P. Daves)

Because the material concerning this proposal had not been distributed with sufficient advance notice, S. Thomas called for a vote on whether the proposal should be considered at this time. Unanimous approval was given to proceed.

P. Daves outlined a proposal for including non-tenure track teaching faculty (NTTF) with the rank of instructor or lecturer (including senior and distinguished lecturer) as a part of the governance process, as many peer institutions have already done. These NTTF members would be considered as part of the census for allocation of senate seats on the same basis as other faculty members with the rank of assistant professor or higher. He estimated that this change would add approximately 20 seats in the full senate. These new seats would not be reserved for lecturers, but lecturers with at least a 50 percent appointment would be eligible to stand for election and to vote in these elections, if permitted to do so by their college and department bylaws. To provide representation this year, a special election of ten NTTF members would be held. In support of these proposals, the following changes to the Senate’s *Bylaws* were recommended.

- 1) Article II, Section 1. B. Elected Faculty Members ...
Change the first criteria from holding “rank or equivalent rank of assistant professor or higher” to “rank or equivalent rank of **lecturer, instructor, or** assistant professor, or higher”.
- 2) Article II. Section 1. E. Apportionment.
Change “All part-time full-year faculty appointments and continuing part-time faculty at the assistant professor level or higher ...” to “All part-time full-year faculty appointments and continuing part-time faculty at the **lecturer, instructor, or** assistant professor level or higher ...”
- 3) Article II, Section 2. Election of Senators.
Change the phrase “with the rank, or equivalent rank, of assistant professor or higher” to “with the rank, or equivalent rank, of **lecturer, instructor, or** assistant professor or higher”.
- 4) Article II, Section 2. J. Research Council.
Change the phrase “with the rank of assistant professor or higher” to “with the rank, **or equivalent rank,** of assistant professor or higher”.

- 5) Article II, Section 2. J. Undergraduate Council.
Change the phrase "with the rank of assistant professor or higher" to "with the rank, or equivalent rank, of lecturer, instructor, assistant professor or higher".
- 6) Adding a new **Article VI** as follows.
"There shall be a one-time election of Senators chosen from faculty of the rank of instructor or lecturer to serve terms beginning October 31, 2012 and concluding in August, 2013. Ten senators shall be chosen in an at-large election coordinated by the Non-Tenure Advisory Group. This Section will be removed from the Bylaws on December 31, 2013 without the need for further vote or action."

S. Thomas noted that, by the definition given in the *Faculty Handbook*, "instructor" was now a temporary appointment for an individual, hired during the search for tenure-track position, who had one year to complete work on his or her terminal degree. He suggested that "clinical instructor" be substituted for "instructor" in the proposed changes. This suggestion was accepted by common consent.

P. Daves moved to make these proposed changes to the *Bylaws*. J. Koontz provided a second to the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Response from Chancellors Cheek and Arrington Concerning Faculty Senate Resolution on Support for Benefit Equality (S. Thomas)

S. Thomas read a letter from Chancellors Cheek and Arrington in response to the Faculty Senate Resolution on Support for Benefit Equality, adopted on April 2, 2012. The letter will be provided as an attachment with the agenda for the Senate's September meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Bylaws Update (S. Thomas)

S. Thomas had distributed in advance of the meeting a draft revision of the Senate's *Bylaws*, incorporating changes made during the previous academic year. By common consent, approval was given to post these revised *Bylaws* on the Senate's website.

Honorary Degree Nominating Committee

As previously discussed via e-mail, the following members were proposed for the Honorary Degree Nominating Committee requested by the Provost:

- Jennifer Beals, Associate Professor, University Libraries;
- Matt Murray, Professor of Economics;
- Alisa Schoenbach, Associate Professor of English;
- Gary Skolits, Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Psychology and Counseling;
- Matthew Theriot, Associate Professor in the College of Social Work

J. Koontz moved the approval of this Honorary Degree Nominating Committee. S. Gilpatric offered a second. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Planning Meetings with Chairs of Councils or Committee (S. Thomas)

S. Thomas noted that the Senate's *Bylaws* call for the chairs of most committees or councils to meet with the Senate President to discuss the committee or council's plans and priorities for the

year. To date, such a meeting has been held only with the chair of the Library and Information Technology Committee. Other chairs were encouraged to arrange such meeting in the near future.

Faculty Senate Representative on the Technology Fee Advisory Board (S. Thomas)

By common consent, the request for two individuals to serve as the Senate's representatives on the Technology Fee Advisory Board was referred to the Library and Information Technology Committee.

Faculty Senate Representative on the Student Life Council (S. Thomas)

S. Thomas reported that two representatives were needed on the Student Life Council; one of these individuals would serve a three-year term while the second would have a two-year term. By common consent, this request was referred to the Undergraduate Council.

Review of the Faculty Senate Committee and Council Appointments (S. Thomas)

S. Thomas reminded everyone this review would take place during the Senate's September meeting. He requested that one change be made to the posted list, namely the transfer of Itamar Arel from the Teaching and Learning Council to the Research Council. This change was accepted by common consent.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was received. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.