

Minutes  
Steering Committee  
10-1-09

Steering Committee Members Attending: Elizabeth Bolton, Jane Brockmann, Mary Ann Ferguson, Joe Glover, Ellis Greiner, Jack Mecholsky, Scott Nygren, Anthony Offerly, David Quillen, Barbara Wingo. Absent: Frank Bova, Bernard Machen, Wolfgang Sigmund and Danaya Wright. Others attending Bernard Mair, Curriculum Committee; Mark Bishop, Committee on Committees; Jim Seale, Constitution Committee

Meeting called to order at 3:09 p.m.

The minutes of the 9/3/09 meeting were approved as changed to correct meeting time.

### **Chair's Report**

The following topics were addressed:

- Most of the conversations on the Senate Blog have been about the recommended changes to the sick leave policy and most are opposed.
- Whether faculty know what the current sick leave policy is and how it would affect them. Provost Glover said he would cover it in his address to the Senate at the next meeting.
- The policy for setting a minimum of \$5,000 for teaching a summer class has not received much comment. Ferguson commented that it might be confusing to the legislature to we say that we can offer any course for \$5,000 in the summer, but not at that rate in summer or fall. Provost Glover said that 80-85% of peer schools have a flat summer fee for teaching.
- Quillen suggested looking at other ways to recover the needed monies and commented that one of the blog posters had said that while top administrators salaries are in the top 10% in the country, faculty salaries are among the bottom 10% and one recommendation was to take 10% from the administrators' salaries.
- The contribution of the Athletic Association to the university was also discussed.
- Some faculty believe that there is not sufficient discussion by the senators in monthly senate meetings. The Chair said that he would reorganize the agenda in the following way: Action items, Topic Discussion, followed by Information items. As part of this change, the Steering Committee will recommend topics or questions for the Topic Discussion for each meeting.

### **Provost Glover's Report**

The Provost made a short report and the following was discussed:

- The retirement enhancement program was discussed briefly followed by a discussion of the FEO program. It was noted that at this time, the Union has not agreed to the FEO program so it is available only to out-of-unit faculty.
- Provost Glover reported that not a lot of other proposals were on the table to raise the required funds. The annual leave payout was brought up and Provost Glover said it was a program that non-9-month faculty set great store by and it was not clear it would be equitable to consider it for elimination or reduction.
- Tony Offerle, Chair of the Welfare Council, reported that the Welfare Council recommended a tiered phase out of the sick leave program so that those who are currently anticipating it at retirement would not be seriously jeopardized.

- Scott Nygren, Chair of the Research and Scholarship Council reported that there was concern that the SLO/ALC process not become burdensome with paperwork and that it be made clear that it is possible only to measure certain short-term direct effects, while many important longer term indirect effects are difficult or impossible to measure. Provost Glover noted that the SLO is mandated to be measured by graduation.

### **Budget Council Report**

David Quillen, Chair of the Budget Council, reported that the Budget Council had met with Dean Wright from the College of Journalism and Communications and, based on that discussion, the Council determined that no one has brought forward any fundamental curriculum or other Senate-related reasons for the Senate to oppose the WUFT changes. Quillen said that the education mission of the College was consistent with the changes and it appears that the College faculty are in agreement with the changes. Provost Glover said that the Administration had discussed these changes and supported the College's decisions. Brockman said that the community should be considered because WUFT is a service unit that the community feels it belongs to them; they should have a say.

### **Information Items**

Bernard Mair, University Curriculum Committee Chair, brought forward two information items. He said that the closure of the Department of Dental Biomaterials in the College of Dentistry was already accomplished by the Board of Trustees, so there was no point in bringing it to the faculty. He recommended changing the second information item from "merger" to "renaming" the unit to the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences. Discussion ensued about the process for closure of units.

### **Constitution Committee**

Chair Seale brought forward a recommended change to the definition of a layoff unit. After much discussion, a motion was made and passed (4 for, 1 opposed, 1 did not vote) to send the recommendation back to the Constitution Committee to address the concerns the Steering Committee has about the broadness of the language and its implications for tenure protections.

### **Committee on Committees**

The Chair of the Committee on Committees, reported on the "left-over" issues that the CoC would be addressing: co-chairing of the Curriculum Committee, the language for the Academic Assessment Committee, the Library Committee, students serving on senate committees, rotating chairs/vice chairs and number of terms of a chair and the Creative Campus Committee

### **Welfare Council Report**

Tony Offerle reported that the Welfare Council is working on: forms for student evaluation of faculty, tenure standards related to those evaluations, training for interpretations of the numbers gathered from student evaluations, and T&P standards for faculty of merged units. He also discussed the Council sick leave proposal and said that the Welfare Council recommended that those with twenty years receive full benefits and that the payouts be tiered after that. The Welfare Council also reviewed a draft of the Compensation Committee's report and is recommending that the report be submitted to the Senate.

### **Academic Policy Council**

No one present to report

**Infrastructure Council Report**

Has not met since the last Steering Committee meeting, will be meeting forthwith.

**Research and Scholarship Council**

Planning to review RCM in its shadow year. Concern was expressed that the “fiscal cart is driving the academic horse” and that the budget is now based on revenue generation rather than on programs. The Council will be reviewing and will work with the Budget Council. First quarter shadow has been done and Budget Council will be reviewing outcomes. Faculty have been invited to forward RCM issues to the Senate Chair. Concern was expressed that many faculty do not have a basic understanding of RCM.

Scott moved to accept the Senate Meeting Agenda as modified for the October 15 Senate Meeting. Motion adopted.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.