

MINUTES
UAF FACULTY SENATE MEETING #159
Monday, May 4, 2009
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Wood Center Carol Brown Ballroom

I Call to Order – Marsha Sousa

Faculty Senate President Marsha Sousa called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

A. Roll Call for 2008-09 Faculty Senate

Members Present:
Abramowicz, Ken
Allen, Jane

Members Absent:
Barry, Ron

B. Approval of Minutes to Meeting #158

The minutes were approved as distributed.

C. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as distributed.

II Status of Chancellor's Office Actions

A. Motions Approved:

1. Motion to Reaffirm the Marine Advisory Program Unit Criteria
2. Motion to Reaffirm the Communication Department Unit Criteria
3. Motion to Approve a Certificate in Ethnobotany
4. Motion to Approve an integrated BS/MS Degree Program for Mechanical Engineering
5. Motion to Amend the Mandatory Placement Policy (writing sample)

B. Motions under Discussion: none

C. Motions Disapproved: none

III Public Comments

Dana Thomas spoke about the motion amending the mandatory placement policy to include a writing sample. An ad hoc committee has looked at this motion and made recommendations in a report. [Report is posted on the Governance Meetings page.] They want to compare machine scoring with hand scoring on a sample group of 100 students. AccuPlacer has a component for writing called WritePlacer, which the committee wants to try out as well. Then they'll decide upon one of three options: 1.) accept machine scoring entirely; 2.) use a mix of machine- and hand-scoring for borderline cases; or 3.) use only hand-scoring. Sign-off on the motion has happened in the meantime, because in looking at the cost of implementation in a worst case scenario of all scoring done by hand, costs could be covered this fall.

As part of the transition team efforts begun last summer, there was a request for a plan to further develop academic advising at UAF. An ad hoc group met and then delivered a 38-page report, evidence that change and improvement is needed. Six main topic areas are covered, including: web-based advising, resources and training; student advising development (recommending a new freshman seminar); faculty, staff and peer advisor development; targeted advising for specified student populations; an academic advising council to provide direction for improvement; and assessment of advising. This report will be posted on the transition web site soon, and Jayne will post it on Governance web site in the meantime. [Report is posted on the Governance Meetings page.]

Katy Olson, a UAF senior majoring in Psychology, presented her proposal for recognizing instructors via the Instructor of the Month Award. She described the project as one for all students to participate in, to vote on an instructor each month. Recipients would be

office. There's not a way to solve all problems with an electronic election, but that's what they want to try as a means to ensure more participation from faculty in a timely fashion.

Ken B. commented on SNRAS' lack of an election and that the dean apparently appointed someone. Following that, Ken said there was an election, but the process was not followed fairly and this should be investigated.

V A. Chancellor's Comments – Brian Rogers

Numbers for admission applications and early enrollments are looking good. The numbers are up significantly (over 10% for first-time freshman), including UA Scholars. Factors contributing to that positive growth include faculty efforts, a good price compared to the competition, and quality education. He tha

prospective students are already employed in their fields and have an ability to pay for the higher costs (aided by their employers). The use of this special tuition is not something that happens regularly at all.

Regarding the H1N1 influenza virus, like every institution in the countr

[Copies are available on the Governance Meetings web page with materials for Meeting #159.]

Members of the committee were identified as follows: CLA: Karen Grossweiner, Christine Cooper; CNSM: Diane Wagner, Elizabeth Allman; CRCD: Ron Illingworth, Mahla Strohmaier; SoED: Anne Armstrong; SFOS: Trent Sutton; CEM: Charlie Mayer; SOM:

focus our assessment, clarifying strengths and weaknesses in these learning opportunities provided for our students, and it will be easier to manage.

Kristen from student government spoke next. She serves on the committee and appreciated having full voting privileges. She came into this process viewing the Core as burdensome and not fitting into her goals. One of the best features coming out of this assessment of the Core is the concept of integration. Integrative and applied learning is essential in a student's education. It will make the Core applicable to more students, including A.A. and A.A.S. students. She endorses the proposal presented today and feels it is progressive and beneficial to the students. Ken B. asked her for suggestions about better educating students about the need for the Core. Kristen mentioned the idea of a one-credit freshman seminar where they learn about the core requirements and how it fits into the bigger picture of their education.

Anne Armstrong spoke in detail about the purpose and goals of a freshman seminar. It's inclusive and brings students' individual backgrounds to the table. It's collaborative by having small groups work with faculty, which allows for enquiry and allows them to see scholarship and research from that faculty. It's very effective for one credit/one hour per week. It effectively teaches students how to do school (how to manage the semester schedule, for example) and brings in elements of campus life and community activities. It guides them toward doing their own research in the future, helping them look at their baccalaureate goals and beyond. It fosters connection with faculty and the other students they've taken the class with. The students get to see integrative learning firsthand. Some concerns noted on the handout include more on the faculty workload, syllabi to be developed, and the scheduling challenges. Benefits include helping with student retention, and student engagement with the college.

Mahla Strohmeier served on the committee to address the needs of the associates' degree students. Changing the core will significantly impact the associate's degree which is basically the Core. It will affect salability of the degree and student retention. She now sees that the current Core is no longer completely relevant. She feels there is great potential in a new implementation of the changed Core, and with more course choices it may lead to more A.A.S. students going on to baccalaureate programs. The freshman seminar will benefit them as UAF students.

Rainer N. asked Anne A. about the 60-70 faculty that will be needed to make this change happen – does this pool exist now? Anne said that needs to be determined (she almost put that down as a concern herself).

Sarah Fowell commented that there are advantages to the Seminar, but it needs to be applied evenly pedagogically – will there be faculty training? There could be a lot of irregularity in the effectiveness without addressing this. Anne agrees they'll need to work on faculty development and a model for applying it. We need to come up with our own goals and how to address training.

Jennifer R. said she loves the idea because she had that as an undergraduate; but, how was the decision made to make it just a one-credit seminar? Anne said they looked at different models used at other universities. There are a variety of models out there. The idea merits

further study before implementation. The current proposal was put forth as doable in the near future, to launch it.

Dana presented closing issues, mentioning that the report contains a lot more detail on the issues described today. There is a lot more wo

Jane W. asked Ken B. if his comments were general about the whole review process. He said no, but believes more accountability for the process is needed and that the Senate should be looking at the process used. Amber asked about how many voted and if Ken was one of them. Ken gave some voting numbers (16 of 45 faculty voted) that did not match Steve's numbers. Ken maintained that approving these criteria is an anointing of a flawed process.

Ray R. spoke to the committee's charge with regard to the unit criteria – it does not include overseeing the process followed in the school or unit. There were no fundamental changes to this UC – just minor refinements. The UC Committee were not uncomfortable with their charge in this case.

Marsha also spoke to the Senate's duties with regard to Ken's comments: the Senate committee receives the unit criteria from the unit without looking at their internal review process; further, the Senate does not look at the implementation or application of the unit criteria within the unit itself – that falls to the promotion and tenure committees.

Marsha asked for a vote. The motion to reaffirm the SNRAS/AFES unit criteria was passed by majority vote. There was one nay vote cast by Ken B.

B. Motion to Reaffirm the Department of Mathematics

for. Ray explained that the primary emphasis of this description is rather to differentiate the DMS from other sciences and that's how the committee dealt with it.

Marsha asked for a vote. Majority vote passed the motion to reaffirm the Department of Mathematics and Statistics unit criteria. The unit criteria were passed unanimously.

C. Resolution of Support for a Student Learning Commons, submitted by the Student Academic Development and Achievement Committee (Attachment 159/6)

Dana G. spoke about the resolution and its 15-year history of development on campus. The collaboration on the plan with the Rasmuson Library and the SADAC has made it stronger. Now, the Library has potential physical space to house it. It's a practical model that has worked well all over the nation. Dana described how it would be structured and the potential benefits of that to the students. She also described how it would complement existing student support services already on campus.

Rainer spoke to the issue of the resolution (as opposed to a motion). Marsha then asked if a proposal will be forthcoming to address the financial implications of the SLC. Rheba Dupras from the Library came forward and spoke about collaborating with the SADAC on this idea. Having the endorsement of the proposal from the Faculty Senate through this resolution would help move this idea forward and bring it to the place of formulating specific budget proposals. A vote was taken, unanimously passing the resolution of support for a Student Learning Commons.

D. Motion to Approve a Certificate in Environmental Studies, submitted by Curricular Affairs (Attachment 159/7)

Amber T. brought the motion to the floor and introduced Jodie Anderson to speak to any direct questions regarding specifics of the program.

Perry B. asked if the program will be delivered entirely at Bristol Bay, or will there be other campus participation. Jodie responded that it's distance delivery; there's only one course that's required to be face-to-face. It's a statewide program that articulates into the geography and natural resource management four-year-degree programs.

Ken B. asked about the coordination with the other existing programs such as geography, the existing environmental studies program, and the environmental science programs at Anchorage and Juneau. Jodie commented that the Juneau campus program is for training water quality technicians, whereas the BBC program is more integrated with other sciences. Geography contacts were Patricia Heiser and Mike Sfraga, and they've worked together to integrate this certificate program into the statewide geography degree program. The UAA campus is on the horizon, but not a lot of positive integration has happened there yet.

Ken B. mentioned that he only sees one geography course in the program. He also wondered how it dovetails with other existing programs, and he thinks it needs to go back to committee to work out all the integration with existing programs. He also commented that it's a rigorous degree as it's laid out in terms of science, and he wonders if offering this at a rural

XI Committee and Annual Reports

Due to time constraints, the committee and annual reports were not covered in this meeting.

However, Jane W. wanted to ask Faculty Affairs why they did not act on the proposed motion to promote term faculty, and what conflict there was in the CBA for UAFT or the CBA for UNAC alluded to in the FAC annual report (since she did not find any conflicts for UAFT). Cathy C. responded that in the UNAC CBA there is a section noting that these particular appointments' responsibilities are outlined in the contract letter by which they're hired. These letters differ from person to person and unit to unit, as unit criteria will differ from unit to unit. The Faculty Affairs Committee wanted more research to be done about the differences in the hiring letters in the3aitt

- J. Graduate Academic & Advisory Committee – Ron Barry

- XII Members' Comments/Questions
[Due to time constraints, this comment period was skipped.]

- XIII Announcement of Award Recipients
 - A. Presentation of the Outstanding Senator of the Year Award
 - B. Announcement of the Usibelli Awards (Attachment 159/15)
 - C. Announcement of the Emeriti Faculty Awards
(Attachment 159/16)
 - D. Recognition of Senate Service
 - E. Presentation of Resolution of Appreciation for Marsha Sousa

The attachments and resolutions may be found in the meeting agenda for #159, which is posted online at:

http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/faculty/08-09_senate_meetings/index.html

- XIV Adjournment of the 2008-2009 Faculty Senate

XV 2009-2010 Faculty Senate Members Take Their Seats

A. Roll Call of 2009-2010 Faculty Senate

Members Present

ABRAMOWICZ, Ken

ALLEN, Jane (Bethel)

Members Absent

BOGOSYAN, Seta

GANGULI, Rajive

B. President's Remarks – Jonathan Dehn

Jon thanked Marsha Sousa for serving as Faculty Senate president and helping to prepare him for his role.

Normalizing the election process to ensure fair representation and full participation by the faculty is one of the first things he plans to have the Senate look at.

Faculty are encouraged to come to him as well as the Administrative Committee members with concerns or issues. He would like to see more of the spirited debates take place in the appropriate committee, rather than on the floor of the Senate with its time constraints.

Actions of the Senate should keep focused on the university mission of education, research and service.

There will be some changes to the Senate committees by fall when faculty return. And, Jon mentioned the plan of forming a Research Advisory Committee in the fall.

C. President-Elect's Remarks – Cathy Cahill

Cathy thanked all for this opportunity to serve as president-elect. She shares Jon's focus on the primary university mission of education, research and service.

XVI Remarks by Provost Susan Henrichs

Susan welcomed the new faculty serving on the Senate. She also expressed her gladness for the returning membership, as she appreciates the mixture of the new Senators with the 'old' and she looks forward to the energy the new membership brings with it. She looks forward to working with everyone in the coming year.

XVII New Senate Business

- A. Motion to endorse 2009-2010 committee membership, submitted by the Administrative Committee (Attachment 159/17)

No changes were brought to the floor. The ayes passed the 2009-10 committee membership.

- B. Motion to approve the 2009-2010 Faculty Senate Meeting Calendar, submitted by the Administrative Committee (Attachment 159/18)

The ayes passed the motion to approve the 2009-10 meeting calendar.

- C. Motion to authorize the Administrative Committee to act on behalf of the Senate during the summer months, submitted by the Administrative Committee (Attachment 159/19)

The ayes passed the motion to authorize the Administrative Committee to act on behalf of the Senate during the summer. The committee membership remains the same over the summer with exception of the Jon as the president and Cathy as president-elect. The Faculty Affairs Committee will need to appoint a new chair since she now chairs the Administrative Committee.

XVIII Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.