FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2009, 3:00 P.M.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM

Disclaimer: These minutes should not be taken as a verbatim transcript but rather as a shortened summary that is intended to reflect the essence of statements made at the meeting. Many comments have been omitted and, in some cases, factual and grammatical errors corrected. The full verbatim transcript is available online at the University Council website under Faculty Senate / Agendas, Minutes & Transcripts.


Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

ABSENT: Azad, Bishop, Blecksmith, Gaillard, Greene, Gupta, Kostic, Lash, Lenczewski, Liu, Lukacher, Marchewka, Matousek, Mogren, Moraga, Nuzzo, Parks, Porter, Ridnour, Rintala, Schneider, Shortridge, Tollerud, Yamagata-Lynch

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:05pm.

A. Rosenbaum reminded the faculty senators to always use the microphones when they speak and to state their names prior to speaking.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Baker made the motion; Jeffrey was second. The agenda was approved with the addition of three walk-in items.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 22, 2009 FACULTY SENATE MEETING (Pages 3-6)

Baker made the motion; Wade seconded. The minutes passed as amended.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS
A. Rosenbaum welcomed new and returning senators and introduced Donna Jarman, the Administrative Assistant for the Faculty Senate and the University Council, and Ferald Bryan, who has agreed to continue as parliamentarian.

A. Rosenbaum briefly described the history and membership of the Senate as well as the role that the Senate plays in shared governance and how it interacts with the University Council. Senators were encouraged to meet with their constituencies and bring forward items of importance to the faculty in their respective departments.

A. Rosenbaum updated the Senate on events that occurred during the summer. These included the demolition of Kishwaukee Hall, the status of the University budget, the low probability of raises for the upcoming year, the anticipated loss of the MAP grants, and the fact that there have been no significant changes to the benefits package. Senators were encouraged to join the annuitants association and to encourage the faculty in their departments to join.

A. Rosenbaum reported that the University intends to begin implementation of the book and course materials price disclosures policy mandated by the Higher Education Act Reauthorization. This means that faculty will have to observe the bookstore deadlines for submission of adoption forms beginning this October and will involve both books and other required course materials. There was extensive discussion in which many senators expressed reservations about both the feasibility and the pedagogic consequences of the requirement.

D. Valentiner moved that the Academic Affairs committee be charged with looking into the issue and developing a recommendation for possible Senate action. The motion was seconded and approved by the Senate.

A. Rosenbaum reported that the Baccalaureate Review Committee issued its final report on August 4 and is now moving to the implementation phase. It was noted that the three C’s (critical thinking, context, communication) could be addressed in any course.

A. Rosenbaum reported that Vice Provost Seaver has asked the faculty to make a recommendation regarding the provision of interpreter services to a faculty member with hearing impairment. Such services are not covered by the CAAR office which serves only students.

D. Valentiner moved that the issue be remitted to the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities committee.

B. Lusk seconded and the motion carried.

A. Rosenbaum presented the draft H1N1 Policy draft from the Provost’s office and noted that recognizing possible implications for academic freedom, the Provost would like to issue the statement jointly (or, at least, with the endorsement) of the Senate. There was extensive discussion of the policy.
J. Kowalski proposed that language be added which made it clear that the faculty retained ultimate responsibility for determining whether a student had adequately completed the course requirements. An informal vote supported the addition of this language to the statement.

A. Rosenbaum: reported that there has been substantial faculty concern about nepotism and inequities in the allocation of raises following the publication of a Northern Star article last May. The Steering committee of the UC and the Executive Committee of the Senate concurred that the University Affairs committee of the UC be charged with examining the adequacy of the University’s nepotism policy.

C. Thompson: moved that the discussion about the equitability of the resources allocated to the different groups (e.g. academic side/financial side, faculty, administrators) within the University be looked into by the Economic Status of the Profession Committee. The motion was seconded and followed by a spirited discussion.

R. Feurer made a friendly amendment to include the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities committee, as well. C. Thompson agreed with the amended motion and it passed. The joint committee will report back to the Senate.

V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

A. Selection of Vice President and Secretary of Faculty Senate

A. Rosenbaum: Nominations were opened for Vice President and the Secretary of the Faculty Senate. Michael Morris was nominated, seconded, and approved as Vice President of the Senate. Nancy Castle was nominated, seconded and approved as the Secretary of the Senate. Both agreed to serve.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Faculty Senate Committees for 2009-2010. (Page 7)

The consent agenda was approved.

VII. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Earl Hansen – report (Pages 8-9)

E. Hansen reported that President Peters was well received at the IBHE meeting. He (Earl) encouraged faculty to communicate with him (Earl) regarding their input to the FAC. The IBHE is working vigorously with the Senate and legislature in Springfield to get MAP grants reinstated. Improving retention and graduation rates is an issue on all campuses and the faculty must step up and play a role in that effort.

P. Henry: Moved that we issue a statement that the Faculty Senate, via the FAC, support the efforts of the IBHE to restore MAP funding. B. Lusk seconded and the motion carried.
K. Freedman: recommended that the four agenda items listed in Hansen’s report be addressed by committees of the Faculty Senate. F. Bryan suggested that these be discussed for possible committee assignment at the next executive committee meeting and K. Freedman agreed.

E. Hansen: announced that he is asking President Peters to support our efforts to host the next meeting of the FAC, in October.

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Joseph “Buck” Stephen and Ferald Bryan – report (Page 10)

C. BOT Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee – Ferald Bryan – report (Pages 11-12)

F. Bryan: briefly reported on both meetings. Trustee Boey as well as other members of this committee expressed their very strong support for the tenure process. Appointments of a new dean, new research centers, new degree programs and new specializations were all approved.

A. Rosenbaum: Reported on the August 27 meeting of the FFO committee and the main items of interest were the approval of the capital bill with appropriations for the renovations of both the Stevens Building and Cole Hall.

D. BOT Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee – Jay Monteiro and Bobbie Cesarek – report (Pages 13-17)

B. Cesarek: reported that there were no action items during this meeting. Information regarding the MAP grant situation and the implications of the Higher Education Act Reauthorization was presented

E. BOT – Jay Monteiro – report

B. Cesarek: (presenting in place of Jay Monteiro) directed the Senate’s attention to the walk-in item reporting on the BOT meeting. She stated that when the Board of Trustees meets it considers the reports of the subcommittees and, therefore, is essentially a reiteration of that same information that the Senate has just heard.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic Affairs – Charles Cappell, Chair – no report
B. Economic Status of the Profession – Sonya Armstrong, Chair – no report
C. Resource, Space and Budget – Michael Morris, Chair – no report
D. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities – Rosemary Feurer, Chair – report
E. Rules and Governance – Nancy Castle, Chair – no report

F. Elections and Legislative Oversight – David Wade, Chair

1. Ballots were cast for the Hearing Panel

2. The following faculty were picked to serve on the Faculty Grievance Committee:
   Abul Azad, Jana Brubaker, Barbara Burrell, Rebecca Butler, Vicki Collins, Laurie Elish-Piper, Kerry Freedman, Barbara Jaffee, Milivoje Kostic, Jeffrey Kowalski, Melissa Lenczewski, Khan Mohabbat, George Slotsve, M. Cecil Smith, Kendall Thu

3. Ballots were cast for the University Council alternates.

4. Jeff Kowalski, Art and H. Joel Jeffrey, Computer Science were nominated for the Responsible Conduct of Scholarship Committee.

5. Larry Gregory and Geoffrey Gordon were elected to the University Judicial Advisory Board.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Rosenbaum: Reported that at the last Faculty Senate meeting in the Spring, the Senate passed a resolution recommending to the UC that departmental rankings that affect Research and Artistry awards and sabbatical leaves be respected and the order not be reversed by any higher individual or body without providing an explanation to the department. After some discussion and a negative vote to reconsider the motion, the motion will be referred, as written, to the University Council.

X. NEW BUSINESS

XI. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. 2009 – 2010 Meeting Schedule (Page 18)

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.