Boise State University Faculty Senate  
April 22, 2008 3:15 p.m.  
Farnsworth - Student Union Building

President Saunders called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.


Motion: To accept the minutes from February 12 and March 11. Motion seconded and passed.

President Saunders asked members of the Senate to review the president’s report posted on the Faculty Senate website and provide feedback on anything that may have been overlooked.

Clinical Faculty
The draft of the definition, and proposal of the policies and procedures of the clinical faculty position were open for discussion. A clarification in the definition of allied health and health disciplines would include social work or counseling. Provost Andrews stated it would be under the discretion of the college or department to determine which positions would fit the criteria, and will not decrease the number of tenure faculty. Over the past three years 27 new tenured or tenured track positions were created. Senator Baker served on the committee which reviewed the definition of the policy and three goals were set to define the policy; to restrict the application to the clinical areas; to articulate the difference between the clinical faculty and official faculty; and clarify the mechanism to shift back and forth from a tenure track position to clinical position that would meet the needs of the department.

In discussion, it was suggested that clinical faculty have the same promotion rights as tenured faculty. President Saunders recommended that the Professional Standards Committee review the policy to allow greater protection for clinical faculty, and that it does not reduce or eliminate tenure positions. Senator Ahten stated that the Department of Nursing is in support of this proposal which provides an opportunity for clinicians to remain clinically focused which is needed in their department.

Motion: Recommend on this basis that the Senate approve the definitions in the policy.

Seconded. Passed with one objection.

University Core Curriculum Committee
Don Warner, Chair of the University Core Curriculum Committee (CCC), presented his committee’s annual report and reasserted that the Faculty Senate has charged the Core Curriculum Committee “to develop assessment methods that can be used to ensure that all existing [core] courses meet the intent of Core and can be proven by the use of hard evidence.”
In their 2009 visit, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NCCU) will be assessing whether or not Boise State is achieving their core objectives. Spurred by a 2005-2006 NCCU interim visit, an assessment plan was developed by the CCC that involved asking instructors to examine student learning and performance with respect to core learning outcomes on the assignments, classes, exams, and projects they conduct within their courses. The assessment process is twofold involving surveying students and faculty in selected departments at the end of the semester to ascertain how they perceive student learning has progressed. Then, it is the faculty and department’s responsibility to analyze survey results to help evaluate if courses are meeting the spirit of Core and to develop plans essentially to improve their core courses. This past year, instructors in Criminal Justice, Modern Languages and Literatures, Biology, and Political Science were asked to assess student learning in their core courses. A curriculum map was created to look at the relationship of these individual departments to the overall core objectives. From the preliminary data, the CCC reviewed 40 courses [not sections] and 51 reports covering 6,500 students enrolled in these courses. Based on this information, most of these courses did not support critical thinking and problem solving outcomes adequately, and communication skills were not sufficiently supported by any courses beyond the Modern Languages and Literatures’ courses. That said, as stated in this annual CCC report to the Faculty Senate, it is important to remember that no individual courses can address all core outcomes. In fact, the totality of Core must be amassed to get a full picture of Core’s strengths and weaknesses.

The assessment was designed to identify trends and help faculty members and department chairs reflect on core courses and make changes. In this assessment cycle, department chairs and instructors reported challenges and identified strategies and components on which to focus to improve their courses. Some concerns follow:

- Reliance on non-regular faculty;
- Modern Languages and Literatures noted high instructor turnover which directly relates to reliance on non-regular faculty;
- Poor classroom technology:
  1. Was identified by Biology and Modern Languages and Literatures,
  2. Teaching off campus was reported as difficult (particularly at Gowan Field), and
  3. The difficulties in obtaining the equipment needed for multi-media were highlighted;
- Modern Languages and Literatures stated it would be nice to have all language sections in classrooms with similar resources (maps, technology, etc.);
- Biology and Criminal Justice have large class sizes (Some Biology courses are up to 250 students.), and this hindered instructors’ ability to address communication related outcomes;
- Low pay for adjuncts. This is an issue because the assessment is required to be completed by adjuncts teaching core classes, their contract ends right after finals’ week, and there’s no motivation for them to stay and complete assessment reports.

The CCC would like to propose a policy change to the Faculty Senate. If the Core Curriculum Committee determines that a departmental report is incomplete, or if no department report is submitted during the assigned assessment period, the CCC would like to recommend that an interim assessment be conducted again in two years. If a department is again unable to complete their assessment or still does not comply fully in completing their assessment, the CCC would recommend to the Faculty Senate to have the department’s core course, or courses, be removed.
from the core curriculum. (If an assessment is completed successfully, the normal assessment cycle is five years.)

**Motion:** Bullet 6.4 belongs under consideration in Academic Standards for processes of leveraging departments who cooperate.

**Seconded. Passed with no objections.**

President Saunders tabled the discussion and will pass this on to Academic Standards for further action.

**Motion:** Bullet 6.4 belongs under consideration in Academic Standards for processes of leveraging departments who cooperate.

**Seconded. Passed with no objections.**

President Saunders tabled the discussion and will pass this on to Academic Standards for further action. President Saunders informed the Senators that the nominating committee will be sending out committee positions that will be available and asking for faculty to sign up and provide their contributions.

**Committee Reports**

**Academic Standards:** The Academic Standards reported whether to adopt credit/no credit options for courses outside of students major and the committee voted not to adopt this option. Kris Collins, BSU Registrar, informed the committee that she contacted the university that had the credit/no credit option, and they informed her they were going to discontinue this practice. It was determined that is could be very costly and time consuming. The committee felt that space in the classes that might be taken up by students who chose the no credit option and that degree seeking students not get a seat.

Another issue was a survey whether every institution standardized student evaluation of faculty, and the chair, Joan Carnosso made 195 inquiries and received over 182 responses from different colleges and universities; 156 all do individual department evaluations, not standardized by the university. The reminder all use standard evaluations and all stated they are beginning to use computerized evaluations.

Other topics were passed on to other committees; one was whether to change the limit on the number of academic withdrawals. This was referred to Academic Standards and later passed on to another committee. President Saunders will determine where it was referred to and close the loop.

**Core Curriculum Committee:** Previously addressed by Don Warner.

**University Curriculum:** Reviewed 22 minor curriculum changes, one was the Bachelor of General Studies program approved by the Faculty Senate.
Diversity Committee: The committee meets monthly, and calls for syllabi the beginning of the fall and spring semester and will continue to do that. The committee approved 17 courses for diversity designation for the 2008-2009 undergraduate catalog. There are 5 syllabi courses pending for decision and are continuing to add student diversity designation.

Faculty Grievance: The main charge to this committee was redrafting the policy for faculty grievance, and a couple of the issues that were subject to revision were the timing issue that a grievance is filed late in the summer or late in the spring. The committee now has a policy written which they will incorporate a meeting as soon as possible after a grievance is filed. One of the more serious revisions has to do with whether or not the faculty is required to follow a certain step or whether it’s a choice to follow certain steps. The use of choice was passed by the Faculty Senate.

Another policy was to incorporate the new position of the Ombuds, another avenue for a faculty member to take in the process of faculty grievance. This policy may be undergoing further changes by Human Resources and may be addressed to the Faculty Senate in the future.

Professional Standards: The revisions to the policies for permission to continue on promotion and tenure are on hold. The student evaluations from the faculty were a truncate year.

Financial Affairs: Financial Affairs may not have met this year.

Graduate Council: The council had 26 global proposals which represented about 60 separate curriculum changes. The most major thing this year was to approve the number of graduate programs, the Master of Community and Regional Planning, and the PhD in Public Policy; both were approved by the State Board of Education. The Master of Science in Chemistry was approved by the council and is pending approval by the State Board of Education.

Nominating Committee: They still have to meet in order to send out the notice addressed here at this Faculty Senate meeting.

Research Council: Mark Rudin presented an overall view of research university committee. The council is still getting organized and the focus is trying to come up with a way to assess and formulate the research of the university and provide documentation.

Sabbatical Committee: The new change in policy took effect the beginning of the year, February there were 27 sabbatical applications, 12 from Arts & Sciences, 5 from Business and Economics, 2 from CIFS, 4 from Engineering, 2 from Health Sciences, and 2 from SSPA. All were excellent applications and recommended to the Provost for approval. All applications must be received in electronic form in the future according to the new policy.

Student Affairs: Meetings were held online. Nothing from the conversation needed Faculty Senate input. The committee previously discussed scholarship policies.

Faculty Senate: Voting for New Senators
Senators may yield their seats to the new senators: Applied Technology, Ed Lonsdale replaces Donald Bowers; Lynda Benson replacing Dee Hartman. College of Arts and Sciences, Alicia Garza replaces Cheryl Hindrichs, David Saunders serves another term, stepping down as President. Business and Economics, Gary McCain replacing Geoff Black, Jennifer Snow-Gerono and Anne Gregory serving another term. College of Engineering, Nadar Rafla will serve in this capacity. Graduate College, Peter Wollheim will replace, Nadar Rafla. College of Health Sciences, Sara Ahten will serve another term. Troy Rohn will replace Leming Qu. Natural Science, Jeff Peloquin will serve another term. Social Sciences and Public Affairs, Lynn Lubamersky will serve another term. Sandy Schackel will replace Bob McCarl, and Joanne Klein will replace Roy Rodenhiser

**Election of Officers**
Lynn Lubamersky and Will Rainford were nominated for President. Voting proceeded with 6 votes for Lynn Lybamersky, 15 for Will Rainford. Will Rainford will succeed as the Faculty Senate President vacated by David Saunders.

Lynn Lubamersky was nominated for Vice President. Voting proceeded with unanimous votes for Lynn Lubamersky, she will succeed as Faculty Senate Vice President vacated by Bob McCarl.

**For the Good of the Order**
Glenn Pfautsch informed the Faculty Senate that this may be the last year that the College of Applied Technology serves on the Senate. Provost Andrews stated that the State Board of Education approved the agenda item from Boise State University to discontinue all of their professional technical programs as of July 2009, as well as to notify all employees of the Selland College that this coming academic year will be their final year with Boise State University. The College of Western Idaho publicly endorsed what they put in writing to Selland College faculty their intention to hire everyone with a satisfactory or better performance, beginning fiscal year 2009. Next year is the last year that is anticipated that the Selland College will be part of Boise State University. It is up to the Selland College and the Faculty Senate on representation to the Senate for next year. One thing that was requested was to review all policies. Changes will need to be made in all policies that make reference to the Selland College and Applied Technology faculty and remove them from the policies because they will no longer be a part of Boise State University. The Senate will need to make a decision on all their policies effective July 2009.

We are going to request to grant Emeriti status to a number of faculty from the Selland College who met the requirements because they will be separated from Boise State University. There will be a few other policies that will be brought forward on the relationship between CWI and Boise State University that would ask the Faculty Senate to consider.

The Senate appreciates the service that the Selland College has contributed to the Faculty Senate.

President Rainford adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for August 28, 2008