Boise State University Faculty Senate
February 22, 2011 3:15
Hatch A/B-Student Union Building

President Owen McDougal called the Faculty Senate to order at 3:15 pm.

1) Roll Call: Present-President Owen McDougal, Senators- Russell Willerton, Lynn Lubamersky, Nader Rafla, John Ziker, Anthony Marker, Gary McCain, Scott Lowe, Cheri Folkner, Barbara Allerton, Troy Rohn, Mary Ann Cahill, Tom English, Stephen Crowley, Brian Wampler Representatives-Jim Stockton, Chase Johnson, Guests- Shoni Davis, Jim Munger, Ross Perkins

Agenda Items:
2) Approval of Past Minutes
   (a) February 8, 2011
   - Senator Willerton moved to address the minutes. Seconded by Senator Rafla.
   - Senator Lowe: The deadline for core curriculum course applications is April 15. Previously it was stated as the date to start receiving applications.
   - Motion to approve minutes by Senator Rohn. Seconded by Senator Marker. Motion carries unanimously.

3) Old Business
   (a) Constitution (McDougal)
   - Faculty will be able to vote on the constitution until Monday March 7th. Currently 140 faculty have voted out of the 532 who are eligible to vote. The final tally will be known by the next Senate meeting and will be discussed based on the vote.
   (b) Faculty Governance in Idaho (McDougal)
   - There has been some controversy regarding the State Board meeting on February 17th. At the meeting Phil Cole, ISU Faculty Senate President, presented the outcome of the confidence vote for their president, Dr. Vailas. 76% of the faculty participated in the confidence vote and in that vote, 79% voted no confidence in their president. Dr. Vailas called for a suspension of the faculty senate and replacement of leadership. The faculty senate will be reconstituted in April 2011 after the State Board meeting.
   - President Kustra is holding a meeting with President McDougal, Interim Provost Schimpf, Professional Staff President Dan Griggs, and Classified Staff President Cami Jefferies, within the next week.
   - Four resolutions have been submitted. The Faculty Senate will need to come to a consensus on one of them.
   - Senator Lubamersky: I wrote my resolution because we are a Faculty Senate and we could also be suspended because we are under the same State Board. It's not about the relationship between the president and
faculty at ISU and here we do have an excellent relationship with our president but it's just the principle. We should take a stand because this isn't right and isn't good for the people of Idaho.

- **Senator McCain**: I wrote my resolution because we shouldn't let this go by without any comment. We are not supporting their Faculty Senate and we don't want to attack the board because we are not feeling uncomfortable with President Kustra's leadership. We don't want to be a target and we should wait for more in depth conversation.

- **Senator Ziker**: I drafted my resolution based on the proposed constitution by including faculty rights and responsibilities without directly criticizing the State Board. It has a positive message of communication and cooperation. I am skeptical whether it is within our rights and responsibilities to comment on this State Board action. We can say what we want but there may be consequences.

- **Senator Rohn**: It's not criticizing the board. We need to take a stand that it concerns faculty members because it could happen to any of Idaho's universities.

- **President McDougal**: The atmosphere at ISU is much different than BSU. A negative statement by our Faculty Senate may reflect poorly on BSU.

- **Senator Crowley**: How sensitive is the political climate? Would our voice mean anything to what's already happened? Would it be appropriate for us to express concern about the State Boards decision? It is not about what ISU Faculty Senate was allowed to do or not, it's about the action the State Board took in response. We need to decide what is the flavor of the message.

- **Interim Schimpf**: Any resolution could matter. The Senate should be clear with respect to their objective. Do you believe in shared governance and see this as a threat to that? Do you want to admonish the State Board? The Senate is talking about the things they need to talk about.

- **Senator Willerton**: A concern is the “chilling effect” on faculty members. Faculty members may not choose to work in Idaho because of the action of the State Board.

- **Senator Lowe**: This may impact careers at BSU because of grants and other collaborative research opportunities between Idaho universities.

- **Senator Marker**: When we make a resolution, we need to make a distinction from the act of the State Board and condemning the State Board itself.

- **Senator Lubamersky**: Maybe we could call for a swift reconstituting of the Faculty Senate so the Board has nothing to do with it.

- **Senator Ziker**: I've heard that Vailas has done good things such as expand their research infrastructure and consolidation of colleges with some resistance. We don't know the full context of the State Board's decision.

- **Senator English**: As Senator Ziker stated, I'm not sure I'm ready to condemn their behavior when I don' know the facts.

- **Senator Rohn**: It seemed like this was predetermined that this was going to happen by the Board and there were no open lines of communication. Our
resolution should include shared governance and open communication not only between faculty and administration but between the State Board and faculty.

- **Ross Perkins**: As an untenured faculty member, what happened at the State Board makes me not want to have any involvement with the Faculty Senate. The message the State Board was sending that if you cross the line, we'll take action. We will eventually have new leadership. We have a good relationship with our administrations now but what if in the future that changes?
- **President McDougal**: Requested that all Senators collect the sentiment of their constituents to share with him prior to his meeting with President Kustra on Monday February 28, 2011.

4) New Business

   (a) **University Author Recognition (Folkner)**
   - The library will host a celebration for faculty who have published during the past year. Please encourage people to attend.

   (b) **Michigan English Proficiency Test (Shoni Davis)**
   - They are asking that the Michigan test not be used anymore. The test is outdated, scores are not equivalent to other tests, and it is only available on cassette tape which is of poor quality. The Michigan test is rarely used or requested.
   - **Senator Rohn** moved to eliminate the Michigan test as an option for incoming students. Seconded by Senator Ziker. The motion passed unanimously.

   (c) **Policy 4000: Faculty Submission of Grades (Shoni Davis)**
   - **Motion to approve said changes by Senator Allerton. Seconded by Senator Lubamersky. Motion passed unanimously.**

   (d) **Proposal to modify standard meeting times and patterns (Jim Munger)**
   - The registrar’s office is looking to change class scheduling starting Fall 2012. Because of the growing time to get from one building to another the new proposal allows for fifteen minutes between each class. The proposal would also include 75 minute class periods for Monday, Wednesday and Friday classes. This would increase classroom.
   - **Senator Allerton**: There may be issues for the nursing program due to the clinical schedule.
   - **Jim Munger**: This policy will allow for exceptions.
   - **President McDougal**: Would this accommodate three and four hour laboratory courses?
   - **Jim Munger**: There is no problem scheduling the labs. The 3 hour labs will be cut by 5 minutes and the 4 hour labs will gain 10 minutes.
   - **Jim Munger**: Is soliciting feedback for the next two weeks.

   (e) **Funds for salary increases (McCain)**
   - **Senator McCain**: Presented a document generated by the Faculty Financial Affairs committee. The topic of setting aside funds to provide a means to fund salary increases internally has been discussed and the FFA committee
is ready to make a recommendation. The formal resolution will be available for the Senate to vote on at the next Senate meeting, March 8, 2011.

- *Interim Provost Schimpf:* We should be able to do this on our own. Much of our money does not come from the state, so we should not wait for the state to make salary adjustments.
- *Senator Wampler:* Were there any criteria put in place by which faculty could achieve a higher salary. Is it based on research, teaching, service? Who makes the decision?
- *Senator McCain:* The proposal consciously does not say where the money will come from or how it will be distributed.

5) **Committee Business**

- *Diversity:* *Senator Ziker:* The committee is looking at both the postdoctoral fellowship program and the university learning outcomes for the new core curriculum.
- *Research:* *Senator Rohn:* The committee has made some revisions to the distinguished professor policy. It will be presented next month to Faculty Senate.

6) **Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn by Senator Marker. Seconded by Senator Ziker. Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:51 pm.