

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

May 6, 2011

Members present: Diana Belland, Richard Boyce, Perry Bratcher, Carol Bredemeyer, Tom Cate, Kim Clayton-Code, Richard Fox, Diane Gronefeld, Chuck Hawkins, David Hogan, Yi Hu, Ken Katkin, Alar Lipping, Caroline Macke, Phil McCartney, Kim McErlane, Ausbra McFarland, Jacqueline McNally, Joe Mester, Ban Mittal, Teri J. Murphy, Louise Niemer, Sara Runge, K.C. Russell, Toru Sakaguchi, Steve Weiss, Jeffrey Williams

Members absent: Seyed Allameh, Margaret Anderson, Blas Puente-Baldoceda, Michael Baranowski, Heather Bullen, Paul Cooper, Ken Engebretson, Rich Gilson, Tamara O'Callaghan, Nancy Hancock, MaryCarol Hopkins, Marc Leone, John Metz, Phil Moberg, Patty Schumacher

Guests: Jim Votruba, Gail Wells, Kent Johnson, Ken Rhee, Grace Hiles

The meeting was opened by Faculty Senate President Alar Lipping at 1:10 pm. The minutes of the April 18, 2011 meeting were approved.

Guest Reports:

- **University President** (Jim Votruba):
 - This has been a good (but challenging!) year. Some highlights include: implementation of new general education guidelines, readjustment of budget items, funding for technology enhancement and support, and raises.
 - The budget is strong – a \$4M reserve fund has been restored. Other items of note:
 - Implementation of a student-driven recreation center fee
 - 5% tuition cap (doesn't include fees)
 - Inclusion of Griffin Hall operational support funding
 - Strong applications for Fall 2011
 - State legislature has spared higher education of deep cuts
 - State-wide budget issues still to be resolved include Medicaid and pension funding as well as a move by the Family Foundation to freeze tuition increases
 - Student credit hour/full-time faculty is in good shape
 - Griffin Hall will be open by the fall semester with a formal dedication ceremony on Oct. 10.
- **Provost** (Gail Wells):
 - Productivity data is strong – of note are the following:
 - Bachelor's degrees conferred – up 4%
 - Master's degrees conferred – up 7.6%
 - Law degrees conferred – up 24.3%
 - Summer enrollment – up 2.7%
 - Online student enrollment – up 37.5%
 - International students enrolled – up 40%
 - Undergraduate enrollment – up 2.4%
 - Graduate/Law enrollment – up 5.7%

- Number of students enrolled for fall – up 3.9%
- The last issue of “News For Now” (from the Provost) has been sent (will resume in the fall). Of note is the creation of the Distinguished Professor rank which will be discussed next fall by the Professional Concerns Committee. Discussion ensued regarding this new rank.
- **Faculty Regent** (Chuck Hawkins):
 - The Board of Regents met on May 4 and approved the following items: passed the “uninvited speakers” policy (see April minutes), updated the capital plan, updated schedules/fees, passed the health center fee, adopted the diversity plan.
 - Discussion ensued regarding the new diversity plan – the goals of which focus on Latino and African-American ethnicities.

Committee Reports:

- **Benefits Committee** (K.C. Russell):
 - The Faculty Senate scholarship luncheon took place previous to this meeting. The Scholarship recipient was Virginia Shelly (daughter of Jill Shelly – Political Science & Criminal Justice). Books Awards recipients were Sarah Krull (daughter of Doug Krull – Psychological Science) and Laura Schreiner (daughter of Dolores Schreiner – World Languages and Literatures). K.C. Russell (Chair – Benefits Committee) and Ken Engebretson (Chair, Budget Committee) were also acknowledged for their service as “retiring” chairs.
 - New guidelines for committee review of sabbaticals, fellowships, and grants are now available online.
- **University Curriculum Committee** (Richard Fox):
 - Introduction was made of the new Director of General Education, Dr. Kent Johnson.

Officer Reports:

- **President** (Alar Lipping):
 - Thanks were expressed to K.C. Russell and Ken Engebretson for their work.
 - Faculty were encouraged to become an active part of Faculty Senate
 - Thanks were expressed to Ken Rhee and the work of members of the Teaching Effectiveness and Enhancement Committee for their work this past year.
 - A teaching and learning conference will take place at METS on August 17.

Announcements: Participation in online evaluations is up. Concern was expressed over adjustments that need to be made for online class evaluations. This concern will be taken up by TEEC and reported to the Senate this fall.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Perry Bratcher, Secretary