

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

April 3, 2012

President Matt Schnackenberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All senators or alternates were present except Phong Nguyen, Vanessa Bennett, and Suzet Petersen. A quorum was determined.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 6, 2012 meeting were presented for approval. Larry Powers asked to clarify bullet #2 of the President's report at the March meeting.

- Larry Powers and Mike Schell are proposing a new physical education Gen Ed requirement. So far, there appears to be general acceptance of the requirements, which are already required at the other OUS schools. The only concern seems to be that the new requirements appear to be dodging the established GEAC process.

Larry reassured everyone that the proposed new requirements are not dodging the GEAC process, and the new requirements will be submitted this week. Larry asked that the last sentence of bullet #2 be stricken from the report.

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Senate agreed to strike the sentence as requested. The minutes of the March 6, 2012 meeting were then approved as amended.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Report of the President – M. Schnackenberg – Matt reported that on March 9th, he and Jim Long met with other Faculty Senate presidents and vice-presidents in Eugene.

- A more active role for IFS was discussed that would increase the impact IFS has on state politics, including ways to strengthen IFS and increase its influence. This has become more important due to the shorter tenure of many university presidents, thus the faculty have become the memory of the institutions.
- Faculty Senate presidents and vice-presidents will meet with IFS on June 8th to discuss ways to strengthen IFS.
- Currently, the larger OUS schools have three representatives on IFS and the smaller schools have two representatives. There is a proposal to increase the number of IFS representatives to three from all schools, and to have one member be an upcoming, current or future Senate President to establish a more direct connection with the Senate Executives. The original proposal was introduced by the University of Oregon. Many smaller schools resisted this idea because they don't have formal rules of succession.
- One of the possible effects of the passage of SB 242, is having Institutional Boards rather than a State Board of Higher Education. In the past, OIT has resisted Institutional Boards, thinking they would be more beneficial for large schools. During the discussion of Institutional Boards, U of O argued in favor of these boards, saying that each school would have more control over governance, money, buildings, and promotion. President Maples said that there could be some benefits of individual boards for the smaller schools, depending on how they are instituted.
- The University of Oregon Faculty Senate President, Rob Kyr, missed much of the Eugene meeting due to a last-minute meeting with the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB). This board is making many of the decisions about the implementation of SB 242. Rob urged the OEIB to resist rushing the process.
- Matt has talked with Provost Burda about the Welfare Committee report on Applied Research that was voted on at the March Senate meeting. Brad will be talking about Applied Research at the April 10th Faculty Administration meeting.
- President Maples tentatively plans to attend the May Senate meeting to talk about things that are happening at the state level and to answer questions senators might have.

Report of the Vice President – J. Long – No report.

REPORT OF THE ASOIT DELEGATE – D. Helmricks – There was a hearing on April 3rd to gather student input regarding tuition levels for 2012-2013. ASOIT proposed a 7.5% increase in tuition and looked at credit loads of 12, 15 and 18 credit hours per quarter.

Regarding changes to “non-health” fees, building fees remained the same at \$45.00; incidental fees increased from \$257.00 to \$275.00; and a new recreation fee that will help maintain the athletic building and equipment was established at \$20.00. Additionally, the price of student parking permits will decrease from \$132 to \$80 starting fall 2012.

Also starting fall 2012, students whose insurance does not meet the established federal guidelines will be required to purchase health insurance. The federal guidelines for student insurance have changed and OIT, as an institution, will no longer act as an insurance agency. This change will result in the elimination of the \$92 fee for insurance. To offset this loss of revenue for the Health Center, the Health Center fee will be raised from \$110 to \$150. Students can still voluntarily purchase the insurance if they so desire.

After listening to student concerns and comments, the committee approved a recommendation that will be sent to President Maples recommending a 7.25% tuition increase for 2012-2013.

REPORT OF THE PROVOST – B. Burda – There will be an Academic Council meeting on April 6th during which the roll out of a 3-5 year academic plan will be discussed. The discussion will focus on expected outcomes, timelines, and responsible parties.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT’S COUNCIL DELEGATE – M. Schnackenberg – President’s Council is scheduled to meet in May. No report at this time.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Faculty Rank Promotion and Tenure – T. Fogarty – No report.

Welfare Committee – D. Peterson – No report.

Academic Standards – J. Ballard – Jim Ballard reported Academic Standards is reviewing a proposed change to the General Education requirements. Anyone with concerns or comments is asked to contact him.

Faculty Compensation – D. Thaemert – David Thaemert reported that the committee is making progress on developing floors for faculty salaries and is also working on guidelines for library faculty.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL OR AD HOC COMMITTEES – No reports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

REPORT OF THE AOF REPRESENTATIVE – T. Thompson – AOF met informally on March 17th to discuss end-of-year matters.

- Currently, there are no major changes in welfare issues pending in the legislature that could affect faculty.
- Changes are possible during the next legislative session.
- The Governor is in favor of addressing the 6% pickup in PERS.

REPORT OF THE IFS REPRESENTATIVE – M. Clark – The next IFS meeting will be in June. There has been an ongoing, online discussion regarding Western Governors’ University and whether or not that online institution should be included as part of OUS.

REPORT OF THE FOAC REPRESENTATIVE – J. Long – No report.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL DELEGATE – S. Petersen – No report.

OPEN FLOOR PERIOD – Jim Ballard remarked on a comment made at an earlier meeting that, “OIT has failed to thrive.” Jim disagrees with that remark. He believes that OIT is thriving as shown by “what we did, what we do and what we have done” as a university. While some programs could use more students, other programs are at capacity. Jim feels that the OIT programs that have a reputation outside of the valley have done very well and have recruited students from various locations. He believes that if OIT is to grow, new programs are needed. Mark Clark responded to Jim’s remarks suggesting that the failure to thrive comment is not a reflection on the quality of education provided to students but on the workload challenges faced by faculty, staff and administration. OIT faculty, staff, and administration had gone 4 years without a pay increase, had seen a decrease in pay during the 2009-2010 academic year, and many faculty had been asked to teach overloads and distance education courses to help meet students’ needs. Mark suggested that this model (doing more with less) is not sustainable. It is important that OIT continue to deliver value to its students, but it must also take care of its employees, and it is in this way that OIT has failed to thrive.

Regarding Wilsonville, Jim commented that it is a “done deal.” It’s time to stop complaining, to support the project and make sure that Wilsonville succeeds. When Jim asked an administrator what Portland has cost OIT in the past, he was told that until the last couple of years, Portland had been a money generator for the Klamath Falls campus.

Mark Clark reported that the target date for the pilot Honors Program is fall 2012 with about a dozen students already enrolled at OIT.

Tim Thompson stated that many of the students in his math classes do not have their text books. When he visited the bookstore, recently outsourced to Follett, he discovered that there were pricy new books. Tim asked if there was an oversight committee of faculty and students with regards to the new bookstore’s policies and costs.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hallie Neupert, Secretary

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