

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2006, 3:10-4:50 PM

Officers Present: President Lynn Shepherd, President-Elect Chuck Craig

Faculty Senators Present: Brian Blitz, Jennifer Brown, Eve Dillingham, Virgil Fredenberg, Lisa Hoferkamp, Joe Liddle, Tony Martin, Jane Terzis, Robin Walz

Others present: Dave Tallmon

1. Approval of minutes from January 13 meeting, no revisions.

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Assembly members' comments - none

4. Old business

A. Proposal for SW discussion of GERs/core curricula ([attachment 4.A](#))

Jane and Robin commented that their departments agree this is an important issue that needs to be addressed. Discussion about the need for a UA committee to look at coordinating core courses throughout UA system. Lynn mentioned that Senates at the other MAU's would like to see this addressed at a statewide level.

Jane made a motion to support the proposal described in the attachment and have Faculty Alliance put forward the request for funding. Lisa seconded the motion. Passed by consensus.

B. Proposal for development of a new PBB measure – Outreach Activities ([attachment 4B](#))

Jane commented that service activities need to be tracked anyway and most outreach activities fall into the service part of workload. Lynn mentioned that statewide is implementing a faculty electronic workload system and wants uniformity in reporting activities. The Provost also wants some more definite criteria for the service component of workload and any definitions agreed upon for outreach activities might help in setting those criteria. At the moment, there are 7 PBB measures. Consensus was that the UAS Faculty Senate would contribute to statewide discussions for development of this measure.

C. Online course evaluations

i) Faculty concerns ([attachment 4.C.1](#))

Discussion was about attachment 4.C.1 which was created to supply information to departments about various faculty concerns and make AY04, 05, 06 Senate subcommittee recommendations apparent, even though their recommendations might never have come to a vote.

ii) Subcommittee recommendations ([attachment 4.C.2](#))

Robin and Lisa discussed what led to the recommendations in the attachment. Lisa had already presented this subcommittee's recommendations to Natural Sciences faculty and brought forward suggestions from them, one of which was stronger language than that proposed to separate the Technology and Library Resources questions from the evaluation. Different options were discussed, including whether the Technology and Library Resources items need to be included. Lynn mentioned that only those items directly applicable to the instructor's performance need be put in the instructor's evaluation file. The fact that output from the entire questionnaire currently goes into the instructor's file is a holdover from how paper forms were handled and could be altered at the Senate's direction.

Action Item: *Take the subcommittee's suggestions and Faculty Concerns documents to your campus units so all UAS faculty members have a chance to provide the Senate with their input.*

iii) Spring 2006 online questionnaire ([4.C.3](#))

Robbie sent the current evaluation form with two proposed changes for the Senate's consideration:

- 1) re-name the instrument Student Ratings (instead of Course Evaluation)
- 2) second section: re-name the section UAS Core Competencies (from Course Curriculum) and add an introductory sentence "Please select 'Not Applicable' for those questions you believe were not relevant to this course." Discussion. Motion by Jennifer, seconded by Lisa: "That changes 1) and 2) be implemented for Spring 2006 questionnaires." Unanimous vote to request IT implement the changes.

No interest in attending the March audioconference on student evaluations by Dr. Arreola.

Items iv (Sample report Fall 05) and vi (Spring 05 program results) were not available but v (Spring 05 response rates) was provided for informational purposes. These will be discussed at a future meeting, as will the subcommittee's proposal.

5. New business

A. Distance Education reports <http://www.distance.uaf.edu/steeringboard/ett/documents.html>

- i) Madden – Review of distance education practices
- ii) Madison – Status of Distance Education in Alaska

Lynn suggested looking at both and bringing information to campus units for comment.

B. BA in Biology degree program (Attachment [5.B](#))

David Tallmon presented the Bachelor of Arts in Biology degree proposal for discussion. This degree would not require additional resources but would serve students who might otherwise leave UAS because the requirements for a B.S. in Biology exceed what is needed to teach high school science or work in government agencies. No action was needed at this meeting, but the proposal will be brought to the Senate for approval in March, when the Dean is expected to have signed off on it.

6. Reports

A. Faculty Alliance

Lynn informed Senate that Tim Ewest has agreed to join Lynn and Chuck as a representative of UAS on the Faculty Alliance for the remainder of AY06 to fill out the term of Ginny Mulle, who has resigned on account of workload.

i) Electronic faculty workload system

Heads up about the demo of electronic faculty workload system, probably in March. UAS concerns were discussed briefly.

ii) BOR Policy changes for creation/elimination of Academic Units

Before sending suggested policy changes to the BOR, SAC incorporated some of the language Alliance had recommended, including which units can offer which programs.

iii) Instructional Designer Job Family (see URL 5A above)

Alliance concerns about this Job Family have been taken into account and revisions will be made in the JF descriptions.

iv) February FAFSA Frenzy (attachments [6A.1](#), [6A.2](#))

Faculty members should become familiar with the FFF documents and alert advisees about completing the FAFSA form in order to qualify for financial aid. Aid affects retention.

v) McDowell Statewide UA Public Opinion Survey

http://www.alaska.edu/pres/documents/UASurveyReport1_19.pdf

Informational item to share with campus units. Positive feedback for the most part.

vi) Academic freedom at BOR (attachment [6.A.3](#))

Discussion about ongoing litigation over academic freedom. The document was prepared for the February BOR meeting in response to a request by the BOR Chair.

B. Standing Committees

i) Graduate Curriculum

The Graduate Curriculum Committee asked the Registrar to track graduate students' academic progress, just as she does for undergraduate programs, and Records & Registration staff are working on Banner implementation.

C. Ad Hoc Committees

i) Textbooks/bookstore (attachments [6C.1](#), [6C.2](#), [6C.3](#), [6C.4](#))

The committee recommends reviewing the attachments (2,3,4) provided by the bookstore's manager, Sara Hagen. Sara would be willing to come to departments and explain the choices available for departments and courses. A faculty member who commits to using a text for several years would need to have a departmental chair's or Dean's signature on an agreement, so the department could absorb any losses incurred if a change in textbook were made before the agreement lapsed. This could be risky for departments, but the bookstore is required to cover its operating costs and could not afford to buy back and store used books, only to abandon them on account of a change in course text. Brian mentioned that the math department is trying to stay with the same text for some courses; the bookstore buys back these texts at the end of each term and offers them for sale in subsequent terms.

6. Next meeting, Unit senators and Nominations for Senate President Elect

Next meeting will be March 3rd and AY07 Senators must be designated by March 10th. Starting March 3rd nominations for Senate President-Elect will be accepted and remain open until March 31st. Refer to the By-Laws: in the absence of a nominee from a unit, the current Senator becomes that unit's nominee for President-Elect. Elections will take place in mid-April.

Meeting Adjourned – 4:50 PM.

Minutes submitted by Virgil Fredenberg and Lynn Shepherd