**MINUTES**

**Faculty Senate**

January 10th, 2012

Senators present: Arrasmith, Baarmand, Battaglia, Brenner, Brown, Converse, Cook, Cusick, Dwyer, Heck, W. Helmstetter, Jachec, Lail, Marcinkowski, Murshid, Patton, Perdigao, Polson, Ribeiro, Rusovici, Shearer, Tenga, Winkelmann; non-voting attendee: Dr. Richard Baney, Board of Trustees

President Polson called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and asked for a motion to approve the last meeting’s minutes. A motion was made and seconded, and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Since there had been no meetings between Dr. Polson and the administration from the last Senate meeting and over the break, there was no President’s Report.

Committee Reports

The Faculty Excellence Committee reported that an announcement had gone out asking for nominations for the Faculty Excellence Awards to be given at the Honors Convocation in April. Nominations are due no later than 5 p.m. March 12th, the Monday following Spring Break.

The Faculty Senate Scholarship Committee reported that the next scholarship award will go to a student in the College of Science.

The Welfare Committee was given a letter requesting attention to parking problems concerning the College of Business.

There were no other Committee Reports, and no Old Business items.

New Business

Nominations for President-elect and Secretary of the Senate were opened, with Secretary Shearer nominated to retain his post. He accept-ed. There were no nominations for President-elect or more for Secretary, but nominations will remain open through March.

Discussion

Senator Cusick called our attention to the recent email announce-ment by Mandi Bennett concerning the GradesFirst program in which faculty keep the Athletic Department informed of how student athletes are doing in their courses. He recommended that we work with this program.

Sen. Helmstetter spoke on the Library’s new café, which provides coffee and other beverages, sandwiches, fruit, scones and other baked goods, and various snacks. The café is located in the Library’s north entry area beside the Service Desk. It is staffed from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, and 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Fridays. Items can be enjoyed anywhere in the Library, and, in addition to accept-ing Panther card payment and cash, the café now also accepts credit cards.

Sen. Ribeiro raised the issue of payment for online courses, saying that the policies with regard to this and course loads need clarification. Fortuitously, Chief Operating Officer McCay arrived to make a presenta-tion to the Senate, and spoke to Dr. Ribeiro’s concerns.

He said there were a number of aspects pertaining to payment for online teaching. One is the matter of pay for online course development, another is compensation for teaching online courses; a third is the ques-tion of compensation for online courses a faculty member might teach as part of his or her regular course load, which then might be seen as part of one’s regular salary. As well, one can even go back and rework a course. Dr. McCay added that he will send a policy statement on these matters to Pres. Polson.

Dr. McCay said that the reason he had wanted to address the Senate had to do with a new Capital Campaign, which has been slated for some time in the future. He noted that the faculty and staff are not big donors to campaigns like that. But, he said, he believes that solicitation of these two groups is proper if done with a certain sensitivity to the fact that both faculty and staff are still underpaid – especially the staff. The faculty, of course, had the equity raise program, even if it still fell short; there was no equivalent program for the staff.

Rather, he said he would like to see the Faculty Senate back the Capital Campaign by choosing where we would like to see our money go. Instead of simply contributing to the campaign, with the choice of what gets funded being the responsibility of someone like himself, the Senate could unite behind contributing to specific areas. These might include, for example, a monetary award to go with the Faculty Senate Excellence Awards, or possibly an endowed professorship. The Senate could decide the best place to aim its contribution.

To Sen. Brenner’s question about how much overhead goes with money contributed, Dr. McCay answered that it was twenty-eight cents for every dollar. Sen. Brenner brought up the possibility of the Senate’s contribution going to the improvement of our start-up packages for new faculty, but Dr. McCay suggested that would be too big a project for the Senate.

He added that he is always glad to address the Senate, and said he would like to visit our meetings more often.

Sen. Marcinkowski stated that he had heard rumors related to the last President’s Retreat that new degree programs are being considered. Perhaps, he said, there is a role that the Senate might play in the creation of new undergraduate and graduate programs. Dr. McCay responded that there is a new program-planning process for both undergraduate and graduate programs. Dr. Marcinkowski added that maybe the Senate could be in on the incubation phase, so to speak. Dr. McCay replied that this may be a good idea; the Senate has heretofore not been part of the process.

Pres. Polson thanked Chief Operating Officer McCay for his visit, and called for a motion to adjourn. The meeting ended at 4:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Shearer, Secretary