FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES
2004-2005 Meeting #16, Tuesday, February 22nd, 2005

Present: Bailey (chair), Adams (w/o vote), Baillargeon, Beard, Bechinski, Exon, Farnen, Gunter, Greever, McGuire, McLaughlin, McMurtry, Morgan (sitting in for Anderson), Morris (w/o vote), Reid, Rinker, Woolston, Zemetra

Absent: Anderson, Cloud, Hammel, Reese, Young

Observers: 2

Call to Order: A quorum being present, Faculty Council Chair Bailey called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

Minutes: It was moved and seconded (Greever, McMurtry) to accept the minutes of meeting #15, February 15th, 2004, as distributed. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair’s Report: There being nothing new to report, the council continued on to the next item.

Provost’s Report: Provost Morris provided council with an update on the budget reduction process. She reported that it had become clear that the original March 11th deadline for submission of college budgets to the provost and president was too short a timeline for making strategic, long-term decisions, particularly in the absence still of a final prioritization tool. The revised plan envisioned two stages. The first stage continued to have a due date of March 11th but would involve only the “first action,” the reduction in base budgets that in general follow the recommendations of the UVRTF, of the five actions outlined in the president’s address of February 11th. Creating budgets with this piece in place would allow the budget-making process to proceed in a way that would meet university and regents’ deadlines. The reductions outlined in this draft would not necessarily be permanent ones, since, inter alia, vacant lines could be used towards the budget reduction goal but they could be reduced to 0 rather than eliminated entirely with the possibility of restoration as part of the strategic goals of the college in phase 2. Phase 2 would be the strategic budget, based on all five actions outlined in the president’s address and it would be due to the provost and president on May 1st. Deans will make presentations of their “phase 2 budgets” to the central administration and to the Budget and Finance Committee with the ultimate decision to accept, reject, or modify made by the president.

Provost Morris said that it was in phase 2 that the prioritization tool would come into its own; it would be applicable across colleges. Phase 2 budget proposals would include the possibility of program consolidation, reduction, and elimination. Though the exact shape of the prioritization tool was still sub judice, program decisions would be based on the program’s centrality to the overall mission of the university, its quality, and its economic value.

A councilor urged caution in the elimination of degree options, if the degree offered did not actually cost the university additional money, since such eliminations might lead to a loss of marketability for students.

Announcements and Communications: James Reid announced that faculty surveyed concerning the possible change to plus/minus grading was running about 70% in favor, 20% opposed, and 5% neutral. There would be a resolution on the topic presented at the next Faculty Council meeting. Chair Bailey
reported that the statement on academic integrity prepared by the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics, of which we are a member, would be in its final form very soon. That statement would be distributed to council members and brought to a vote at our next meeting which, incidentally, would be on March 8th. Councilor Rinker added that the President’s Athletics Advisory Council was being restructured so as to include a member nominated by Faculty Council which would allow Faculty Council and faculty in general a greater involvement in intercollegiate athletics.

General Orders:

FC-05-024: FSH 2600 “Student Education Records”: Registrar Reta Pikowsky spoke to a motion, brought to council as a seconded motion from the University Curriculum Committee, to amend FSH 2600 by adding the student’s picture to the list of directory information. She pointed out that each institution had the ability to define for itself what was included under directory information and that many, though certainly not all, institutions that they had surveyed included photographs. So powerful was her presentation (or perhaps so non-controversial the proposal) that the motion was unanimously approved without further questions.

FC-05-015(2): FSH 5700 “Research Data Policy”: This item was returning to Faculty Council, with Gene Merrell, assistant vice-president for research, as its spokesman after having been sent back to the Research Council for possible revisions. Unlike the previous item, this one remained controversial. The problem was how to state a policy that the research data gathered in the course of university research belonged to the university and not to the individual faculty member, graduate student or visiting scholar, etc., who had collected it. Everyone agreed about the intentions of the revisions but there was considerable discussion as to how one might craft language that met the intentions but was not so broad as to include more than was intended (e.g., articles published as a result of research). Eventually it was moved and seconded (Reid, Gunter) to amend the proposal by inserting in section C the words, “Except as otherwise provided in FSH 5300” so as to make it clear that the latter section’s definition governed, or took precedence over, definitions in this section. The motion to amend carried unanimously. The main motion then carried with one dissenting vote.

In response to a related question, Gene Merrell and the council’s secretary reported on the continuing discussion concerning FSH 5400 and their expectation that that proposal would be ready to return to council at its next meeting.

Adjournment: Taking their cue from a significant look on the part of the chair, it was moved and seconded (Beard, McMurtry) to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m. The council’s next scheduled meeting is March 8th, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Q. Adams
Faculty Secretary and Secretary to Faculty Council