University of Idaho  
FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES 

2004-2005 Meeting #18, Tuesday, March 22nd, 2005

Present: Adams (w/o vote) Anderson, Bailey, Bechinski, Cloud, exon, Farnen, Greever, Gunter, McLaughlin, McGuire, McMurtry, Morris (w/o vote), Woolston, Young, Zemetra
Absent: Baillargeon, Beard, Hammel, Reese, Reid, Rinker
Observers: 6

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

Minutes: It was noted that at the meeting of March 8th, 2005 Professor Browder was sitting in for Professor McMurtry rather than Professor Reese. The minutes were as thus corrected.

Chair’s Report: The chair reminded members of Faculty Council of the importance of reporting to their constituencies about what Faculty Council had done and was going to do. He also urged councilors to encourage those constituents with concerns that Faculty Council should be discussing to bring those concerns forward. The SBOE meeting seemed rather uneventful for the University of Idaho. The university (through the President) continues to have alcohol policy waiver opportunities following a previously required report-back on how the waivers worked during last fall. Finally, he reminded the council that the university had set an ambitious schedule for solving the university’s financial problems and that, as a result, there will be very serious business brought to the council for review or action.

Provost’s Report: The provost reiterated the seriousness and intensity of the decisions the university would be making in the next few weeks. In large part the schedule is dictated by the necessity of getting notices of intent to consolidate or eliminate academic programs to the Board of Regents at their June 16th meeting. The board and the Council on Academic Programs (the provosts of the four state institutions of higher education) had both agreed to shorten the time normally required to review these proposals so as to maximize the time available for discussion and decision-making at the university. Still, it meant that the critical deadline for the formulation of budget proposals was about May 1st and she referred councilors to the published schedule to be found at the provost’s website. She said that tomorrow morning would see the posting of materials on the program mapping process and prioritization metrics. Councilor Young thanked the provost for her efforts in creating the new University Budget and Finance Committee and making it a part of the review process in this spring’s decision-making.

In other news she spoke again of the summer workshop on teaching and technology (June 7-9) designed to help faculty members learn how to put appropriate courses on line and how to make best use of the opportunity to apply for the SBOE’s technology grants. As an inducement to faculty participation there may be a limited number of laptops given to those faculty members who sign up early.

Announcements and Communications: Chair Bailey announced to the council that council would be meeting May 10th (during finals week) as that would be the council’s opportunity to review proposals for consolidation or elimination of academic programs. He also announced that Charles Morrison is stepping down from the faculty ombudsman’s position and that Faculty Council was being asked to nominate at least two of its members to serve on the search committee charged with finding his replacement. Suggested or volunteered were Ben Beard, Barbara Greever, and Jerry Exon.

General Orders:

Archie George and Jason Mayer from the university’s Institutional Research and Assessment office reported on the response rate for on-line student evaluation of teaching. While the response rate differed from college to college and department to department, understandably in many cases where students,
particularly when not on the Moscow campus, did not have easy access to the system, the overall university response rate was right at 60.0% (Fall 2004) which compares favorably with the 54.6% response rate from Fall 2001, the last time evaluations were an all-paper operation. (Results in individual courses might vary of course.) Dr. George summarized the situation by saying that the hopes underlying the change to an on-line system were as yet not fully realized but that the situation had improved over the paper evaluation system. Ideas for increasing the response rate even further, either by offering students incentives or some sort of “stick” were bandied about but there was general agreement that all the suggestions were in some way problematic.

FC-05-028 “Membership Dues and Licensing Fees” and FC-05-029 “Six Sigma Innovation and Design Certificate” were postponed for further action and will be brought back to council at a later date.

FC-05-030 “Notice of Intent to Separate the Department of Business into Two Departments”: Associate Dean Jack Morris of the College of Business and Economics presented the rationale for the change which separates a large department with six disparate areas, each with its own coordinator into two more tightly focused departments with no administrative coordinators. The new configuration would actually save a modest amount of money (ca. $4,000) currently being spent on administrative stipends. In response to a question, he said that the change would have no affect on any accreditation issue. Another councilor asked if this administrative change might be premature given the university-wide program evaluation process now in operation. This item came to council as a seconded motion from UCC. The proposal passed but not unanimously. Professor Bailey abstained.

FC-05-031 “Notice of Intent to Drop the Community Counseling Emphasis”: Professor Ernie Biller from the College of Education explained this history of the proposal: on the removal of the professor whose major responsibility this program was to another institution the money attached to that position had been used to pay for an earlier round of budget cuts. Thus there was insufficient staffing to continue this program. The vote to approve this seconded motion from UCC was unanimous.

FC-05-032 “Notice of Intent to Reinstate Special Education Major Only Option”: Councilor Jerry McMurtry presented some background on this seconded motion from UCC. The redesign of the program, which involved the addition of no new courses, was intended to allow students desiring to major in special education in general rather than special education in the primary setting or special education in the high school setting. Special education was one of the most pressing needs in Idaho schools (and an SBOE priority) and this change would speed the path of those wishing to enter the profession. The vote for this seconded motion from UCC was unanimously in favor.

FC-05-033 “Notice of Intent to Change the Title ‘Timber Harvesting’ to ‘Forest Operations’”: Professor Tom Gorman from the College of Natural Resources explained that the title change would reflect the changing nature of the jobs the program’s graduates entered. The vote on this seconded motion from UCC was unanimously in favor.

FC-05-034 “Change in Regulation B-11-a”: Reta Pikowsky, Registrar, explained that this change was to make the catalog conform to actual practice. The seconded motion from UCC passed unanimously.

Adjournment: There being neither new business nor councilor Beard to offer his usual motion, the chair was momentarily faced with the daunting prospect of continuing the meeting beyond its natural life. Councilor Young rose to the occasion with a motion to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Q. Adams, Faculty Secretary and Secretary to Faculty Council