University of Idaho
2007-2008
FACULTY COUNCIL AGENDA

Meeting #4

3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, September 18, 2007
Ag Science 104; CDA 112A; IF4 (TAB321b); Boise 450C

Order of Business

I. Call to Order.

II. Minutes.
   • Minutes of the 2007-08 Faculty Council Meeting #3, September 11, 2007

III. Chair’s Report.

IV. Provost’s Report.

V. Other Announcements and Communications.
   • Creation of a UI Campus at Sandpoint (Larry Branen)

VI. Committee Reports.

VII. Special Orders.

VIII. Unfinished Business and General Orders.

IX. New Business.

X. Adjournment.

Professor Don Crowley, Chair 2007-2008, Faculty Council
Attachments: Minutes of 2007-2008 FC Meeting #3, September 11, 2007
Present: Adams (w/o vote), Christiansen (w/o vote; sitting in for Baker), Crowley, Fritz, Guilfoyle, Keim-Campbell, McCaffrey, McCollough, McDaniel, Mihelich, Miller, Munson, Noble (w/o vote; sitting in for Hubbard), Odom, Rowland, Schmiege, Ch. Williams, Ci. Williams, Wilson. Liaisons: Crepeau (Idaho Falls) and Stauffer (Boise) were both in Moscow and present with council; there was no liaison, either physically or electronically present from Post Falls)

Absent: Baker, Haarsager, Hubbard, [student members not yet appointed]

Observers: 2

A quorum being present, Chair Crowley called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. It was moved and seconded (Miller, McCaffrey) to approve the minutes of the August 28th meeting as distributed. The motion carried unanimously. The chair introduced Professors Crepeau and Stauffer, liaisons from Idaho Falls and Boise, respectively, who were able to be in physical attendance today.

Chair’s Report: The chair briefly reported on two major items that had been discussed the previous day at President’s Cabinet: (1) the proposed health benefits package for calendar-year 2008, and (2) the geographic future of the Law School. With regard to the first, he noted that the proposed changes are complex and that all faculty and staff members will have to pay close attention to their choices. Everyone will have to make new selections from a cafeteria of options. With regard to the second he noted that there was ongoing discussion of whether the Law School should remain fully here, partially in Boise, or fully in Boise. He suggested that the council might want to invite Dean Burnett to a future meeting for a briefing on the issue. Finally, he noted that this year’s McClure Lecture on science and public policy would be on Thursday, September 27th at 7:00 p.m. in the Hartung Theatre on campus. He noted the importance of the intersection of science and public policy and he was strongly seconded by Professor Wilson. Professor Crepeau noted that at Idaho Falls the new Center for Advanced Energy Studies, while focusing on science also had a component devoted to public policy issues surrounding energy creation and use.

Provost’s Report: Sitting in for the provost, the vice provost for academic affairs, Jeanne Christiansen, expressed her appreciation (and that of the provost) to all in the university who helped generate the current freshman class. She noted that her office would be focused on four areas in the coming year: internal organization, learning outcomes and assessment, advising, and professional development. With regard to the first she pointed out the International Programs Office would now be reporting to her and that Academic Affairs would be working on a strategic action plan. With regard to learning outcomes and assessment she repeated her earlier statements that all programs but one had established learning outcomes and all but 10-12 had established assessment procedures. Her office would be helping programs refine those outcomes and
assessment procedures. Recognizing that advising was a significant part of the council’s agenda later in the meeting, she limited her remarks on advising to noting that there were a number of areas where advising could be strengthened and toward that end there had been held the fourth, well attended, advising symposium the previous Friday. Her office was especially concerned with strengthening support for those students admitted provisionally. With regard to the fourth goal, she noted that a number of initiatives were being discussed for staff in the Staff Affairs Committee. They were working on improving new faculty orientation in various ways and they were seeking to revive a “chairs group” to improve information flow both upward and downward. Finally, she announced that there would be a first sustainability symposium on October 1st and 2nd and encouraged all who could to attend.

Facilities Improvements: Brian Johnson, assistant vice president of facilities presented council with an outline of plans to improve facilities on the Moscow campus, improvements that will be funded by bonding. He reviewed the funding mechanisms currently in place for maintaining campus facilities, largely legislative appropriations which have been fairly substantial the last two years but will almost certainly return to the wholly inadequate level of some $2 to 3 million a year. He also reviewed the work of an ad hoc task force on deferred maintenance which had been active last year (chaired by Professor Rod Hill and containing, inter alios, council members Adams and McCollough) and who had estimated the total backlog of deferred maintenance, both that attributable to the Gen Ed budget and that to Auxiliary Services, to be considerably over $200 million and rising at an alarming rate.

As a partial solution to this very large problem the university would be proposing to the board two bond issues, one this fall, one probably winter of 2009, together totaling some $100 million, the provides of which would be used on large scale projects such as improving energy efficiency ($35M), Brink-Phinney renovations ($25M), Wallace Complex renovations ($20M), research structure improvements ($20M), Kibbie life safety improvements ($14M).

Council members asked about the timing of other important building/renovation projects, particularly the second phase of the Student Recreation Center and Steele House. Mr. Johnson replied that the timing on those projects was uncertain. The second phase of the Student Recreation Center would presumably depend on student fees as had the first. With regard to Steele House the university was trying to make minimal improvements that would make it useable for immediate academic space needs (e.g., the School of Music). There were also queries as to how faculty and programs would fare, say, during the renovation of Brink-Phinney. Mr. Johnson said that it was too early to tell. Those issues would be addressed in the actual planning stages. He was hoping that the planning for Brink-Phinney could be “pre-funded” so that progress could be made before the bonds were let in early 2009. In response to another question, Mr. Johnson noted his understanding was that the university’s bond rating was currently A+ and would remain so after these proposed bonds were sold.

Professor McCollough noted that these bonds would be one of the topics of review of the University Budget and Finance Committee. He also noted that this first $100 million would be the easy part of fixing deferred maintenance. The next $100-200 million would be harder and require creative solutions. Professor Hill noted that it was important to think of deferred maintenance as more generally a part of facilities improvements. Professor McLaughlin remarked that it was good to see a faculty-identified problem addressed.
Advising: Professor William McLaughlin, immediate past chair of Faculty Council and facilitator of an ad hoc group dedicated to reviewing undergraduate advising, presented the report of that group to Faculty Council. The group, composed of faculty, staff, and representatives from ASUI, had reviewed previous university studies of advising, listed areas of concern, and made many recommendations for action at the university, college, department, and individual level as to how undergraduate advising could be improved. The full report is available in the materials accompanying this meeting’s agenda and no attempt to summarize it will be made here. Professor McLaughlin’s presentation sparked an animated discussion among council members. Several councilors underlined the importance of advising, particularly of professional mentoring, and of building lasting relationships with students. Others noted that to make good advising a more important part of annual evaluations, promotion, and tenure review would require not only structural change but also cultural change. Others noted that improving advising, while a very good thing, would necessarily shift efforts, say, from teaching and research as there was only so much an individual faculty member could do. Yet others noted that a better advising software/electronic computer system needs to be implemented.

As a result of the discussion, it was moved and seconded (Odom, McCaffrey) that Faculty Council commend the ad hoc group on advising for its good work and forward their recommendations, without endorsing any particular recommendation, to the Provost’s Office for further consideration in the latter’s ongoing efforts to improve undergraduate advising at the university. The motion carried unanimously.

FC-08-001: NOI: Discontinue Bachelor of Science of Computer Science in Idaho Falls: This item, which came as a seconded motion from UCC was clarified by Professor Munson. It resulted from the accreditation visit by ABET, the College of Engineering’s accrediting agency. In their most recent visit (AY 2006-07) the accreditors had noted that the Computer Science Department was offering this bachelor’s program at both Moscow and Idaho Falls but they were not able to adequately staff the program in Idaho Falls. They would only accredit the degree program as a whole if (1) it was no longer offered at Idaho Falls or (2) adequate resources could be given to the Idaho Falls program. As a result arrangements had been made to transfer the undergraduate program to Idaho State University while retaining the graduate program in computer science in Idaho Falls under the jurisdiction of the University of Idaho. The motion to discontinue carried unanimously.

Future Faculty Council Agenda Items: Professor Crowley passed out a list of potential council agenda items that had been generated at its August retreat. He said he didn’t want any of these items to become lost in the press of other business and urged members who had strong concerns about one item or another to communicate with him so that that item could get early attention.

Adjournment: The agenda having been exhausted, it was moved and seconded (Miller, Ch. Williams) to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

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