University of Idaho  
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
2014-2015 Meeting #23, Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Present: Aiken (w/o vote), Boschetti, Brandt, Brewick, Caplan, Chung, Couture (Boise), Crowley (w/o vote), Earl, Flores, Foster, Godfrey (Coeur d’Alene), Jeffery, Karsky, Kennelly, Lowe, Nyavor, Perret, Qualls, Stauffer, Vella for Stoll (w/o vote), Teal, Wolf, B., Wolf, K., Ytreberg. Absent: Frey, Hiromoto, Mahoney, Murphy, Safaii, Stoll, Guests: 6

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:32. A motion (K. Wolf/Chung) to approve the minutes of Senate meeting #22 (March 10th) was adopted without dissent (with 4 abstentions).

Chairs Report: Next week there will be a discussion of Adjunct Faculty and Temporary Lecturers at UI. In two weeks the ad hoc committee looking at enhancing benefits will bring some suggested changes to dependent tuition policy. The Chair inquired as to whether there were three faculty members from the Senate who would be willing to serve on the search committee for Vice President of Finance. The search should be completed by the end of the academic year. Since no Senators volunteered it was suggested that Senators send the Chair the names of any faculty who would be willing to serve.

The Chair reminded everyone next Tuesday (March 31st) is the deadline for completing the online training regarding sexual harassment. The training takes about 30 minutes and must be completed before one can qualify for a merit based increase. College Deans have a list of who hasn’t completed the training. Those who have should have received a certificate noting successful completion.

Provost Report: The Provost reiterated the Chair’s comments on the online sexual harassment training and encouraged all to complete the process within the next week. She emphasized the importance of the coming accreditation visit (April 20-23rd) and distributed new notepads which serve to remind all of the core themes. The notepads also contains the website for those wishing to read the self-study. She suggested that before the accreditation team arrives we might have a more specific discussion regarding the visit. The State Board will be here the week before the accreditation visit. With student and faculty awards coming out soon it is a busy time of the year but it is important that we join in celebrating the accomplishments of our students and colleagues.

Committee Reports: In his role as Chair of Ubuntu, Associate Dean (law school) Jeff Dodge was introduced to discuss the Ubuntu Report. He discussed the lead role that Ubuntu played in sponsoring the Martin Luther King Art and Essay contest. The MLK contest had a good response with entries from every college. The winners were announced last month and will be on the Ubuntu website this week. Ubuntu intends to continue this contest which encouraged people to think deeper about MLK’s role in our history and his vision for our society.

Professor Dodge also reported that Ubuntu had engaged in discussion with Human Resources with regards to benefits to same sex couples. Following the University’s provision of medical benefits for same-sex couples, Ubuntu was interested in learning whether same-sex couples now have access to all benefits available to opposite sex married couples. After inquiries to Human Resources Ubuntu was pleased to report that married same-sex couples now receive all the benefits that married opposite-sex couples enjoy. Ubuntu also inquired as to whether the procedures followed by HR treated same-sex couples in the same manner as opposite-sex couples in terms of providing documentation. They concluded that the procedures were consistent and not discriminatory.
Professor Dodge also reported that Ubuntu had looked into the availability of gender inclusive restrooms and campus lactation spaces at the University. The Ubuntu homepage will provide links to campus maps of these spaces. The committee will continue to promote the need for these spaces on campus. Ubuntu’s final project for the year has been an assessment with Disability Support Services of compliance with ADA guidelines particularly with regard to online courses and the increasingly use of technology in the classroom. Ubuntu has asked DSS to provide a list of the top five concerns so that they can work with them on finding desirable outcomes. This inquiry will probably lead to proposed changes to FSH 6400 and 6420 to better address faculty accommodation of students with disabilities and the increased use of online courses and technology.

Professor Dodge expects that this issue will be the focus of Ubuntu’s work for the rest of this year and into next year.

FS-15-054—APM 70.23---University International Travel. Chair Ytreberg introduced Jack McIver Vice President for Research and Economic Development to discuss a proposed new APM on University international travel. Dr. McIver explained the need to look at international travel to ensure the safety of faculty, staff, and students traveling internationally as well as the need to maintain compliance with federal law. For instance export control laws and trade sanctions may come into effect when there is a transfer of funds to restricted countries and there are certain types of equipment that cannot be exported without a license. Also, there is a need to identify appropriate educational opportunities for students.

The APM (70.23) under discussion requires international travel by faculty, staff, or students under the auspices of the University to be reviewed and approved according to the procedures outlined. (See APM 70.23-B). The policy requires that university international travel must be registered with the International Programs Office (IPO) not later than thirty (30) days prior to departure. This requirement raised some concerns among senators. One senator expressed a concern that this might make it difficult to go to some meetings that are called on short notice. He suggested that there might be more flexibility for people who travel to the same places (like Canada) on short notice. The Provost wondered whether there could be blanket approval for trips to certain places within a particular period of time. Other senators inquired as to whether things could be done to streamline the process. For instance, would it be possible to pre-authorize certain types of equipment (like computers)? Dr. McIver suggested that they would look at the process but it was difficult to make guarantees about equipment without knowing what types of export control issues are involved. He noted that if people are taking equipment that people might want to be in communication with his office well in advance of the thirty days. Other types of international travel, like taking students abroad, also require meeting deadlines well in advance of the proposed travel (see APM 70.23-B-c). Jill Kellogg-Serna from IPO urged that those planning on taking students to connect with the office well in advance of deadlines even if they only have tentative or preliminary plans.

A senator asked about graduate student travel and the benefits of registering with IPO. Ms. Kellogg-Serna pointed out that registering with her office might be necessary if the student is expecting to receive credit or financial aid. Even if that isn’t the case her office can help with insurance and with problems arise it is helpful for the University to know where people are.

To a suggestion for more flexibility regarding timelines for routine international travel, Dr. McIver noted that they would take this into consideration and look for ways to allow for more flexibility. However, he could make no guarantees given the many federal guidelines involved. They were trying to protect the individual as well as the University and some penalties are criminal.
FS-15-055—(APM 5.05) Travel Liability Insurance and Evacuation Assistance. This APM revision is designed to make this policy consistent with the new APM 70.23 - University International Travel policy. There was a short discussion of the adequacy of the State of Idaho’s coverage of travel assistance and medical evacuation. The policy suggests that University units purchase supplemental insurance for employees traveling abroad on University business. In response to a senator’s question, Dr. McIver noted that depending upon the nature of the grant, it is possible that this could be covered by a research grant.

The Chair asked Dr. McIver for an update on the developments in the Research Office. Casey Inge noted that there will be a forthcoming policy dealing with the use of drones for research purposes. This is in response to FAA regulations and designed to bring the University in compliance with these regulations. Dr. McIver commented that the FAA was cracking down on enforcement and these proposals are designed to bring the University into compliance. He also stated that there have been some problems related to consulting and possible conflicts of interests and would like to come back to the Senate to discuss some of these concerns.

As a final thought he stated that the University has received some significant research awards in competitions and in general is doing pretty well in a difficult environment.

Adjournment: With no other business on the agenda the Chair entertained a motion (Karsky/Brandt) to adjourn at 4:47. This passed unanimously.

Don Crowley, Faculty Secretary and Secretary to the Faculty Senate