University of Idaho
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
2016-2017 Meeting #12, Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Present: Anderson (Mike), Brandt, Brewick, Brown, Cannon (Boise), Caplan, Crowley (w/o vote), Donohoe, Fisher, Folwell, Foster, Hiromoto (Idaho Falls), Hrdlicka, Markuson, Morrison, Nicotra, Payant, Pregitzer, Sixtos, Vella, Stevenson for Wiencek (w/o vote), Wolf. Absent: Adekanmbi, Anderson (Miranda), Barbour, Boschetti, Chung, Godfrey (Coeur d’Alene), Panttaja, Stegner. Guests: 6

The Chair called meeting #12 to order at 3:32. A motion (Donohoe/Brewick) to approve the minutes for the November 8th meeting passed without objection.

Chair’s Report: Chair Brandt reminded everyone that they should consistently read the Register. It contains important reminders of meetings and deadlines. The University Faculty Meeting is on December 6th, please remind your colleagues of that important meeting. The committee preference forms for next year have been sent out. It is crucial to get faculty to volunteer for committees to ensure the continuing viability of faculty governance.

Chair Brandt also reminded everyone that the deadline to complete the university training modules is December 21st. The University Distinguished Professor Committee has a couple of openings for this year. If Senators have any nominations, please forward them to one of the senate leaders. In response to a question from a Senator, Vice Provost Jeanne Stevenson stated that the committee convenes after the first of the year and it isn’t necessary to recuse oneself from the award to nominate someone.

Provost’s Report: Vice Provost Jeanne Stevenson stated that initial activities for program prioritization are beginning this Friday. University Excellence Awards are coming up. Recommendations for the teaching and advising awards are due by December 2nd. The University Budget & Finance Committee process has started with final proposals due by the end of the year. The next iteration of the unit cascading plans is due by the end of this week (November 18th).

University Promotions Committee: Chair Brandt reminded Senators that nominations for the University Promotions Committee need to be sent to the Provost’s Office. Senators should talk to those they wish to nominate to ensure they are willing to serve. Please see the FAQ’s sent out by the Faculty Secretary’s Office.

Office of Public Safety & Security: Chair Brandt invited Matt Dorschel to discuss the Office of Public Safety and Security (Safety). This office is focused on creating and maintaining a safe environment for the UI Community. This office is also responsible for compliance with the Clery Act. They have developed a Threat Assessment and Management Team. When necessary, this team seeks to develop fact-based assessments of students, employees, or other individuals whose conduct raises a concern about a potential threat. They offer many training programs related to threat assessment and preparation. One of the programs they provide is the “Active Shooter Response Training Program.” Mr. Dorschel emphasized that this was a very safe campus, but participating in these training programs will help make people aware of the proper steps to take in an emergency. A Senator asked about the TLC and expressed concerns about the inability to lock classroom doors. Mr. Dorschel responded that one of the purposes of the training was to look at particular buildings and analyze what responses might be best under the circumstances. Chair Brandt recommended that colleges take advantage of these training programs and noted that the Safety had provided useful information and suggestions to the College of Law.

A Senator asked if Safety had engaged in a systematic threat assessment of all the buildings on campus? Mr. Dorschel thought that this would be a good idea, but they haven’t had the ability to do this across campus. Another Senator asked about the available training and why it wasn’t more broadly known that people needed to obtain the necessary training. Mr. Dorschel stated that it was important for employees to take
these training modules and that supervisors were responsible to ensure that this occurs. His office is trying to create “partners in safety” and they hope supervisors will reach out to them.

**FS-17-022: FSH 1620—University Level Committees:** Vice Chair Hrdlicka discussed the proposals from Committee on Committees. He explained that the proposed change to FSH 1620 was designed to allow Senate committees to vote by email after the issue had already been discussed at a previous meeting. Voting by email might be appropriate under these circumstances, if each committee member agrees to allow it. The change allows for email voting, as long as any committee member may say that they want to meet again and thus veto an email vote. The Faculty Secretary commented that the purpose was to allow committees to be more efficient, while still trying to ensure discussion, obtain consensus, and assure openness. The proposed change to FSH 1620 also allows committee chairs to recommend names of students and staff who might be willing to serve on that committee. The proposed revisions passed unanimously.

**FS-17-023: FSH 1640.83 - Student Appeals Committee and FSH 1640.93 - Student Disciplinary Review Board (SDRB):** Vice Chair Hrdlicka explained that these proposed changes were to inform members of the SDRB and the new Student Appeals Committee that their terms on the committee would extend through the summer and into the fall semester (if necessary) until new members could receive Title IX training. The purpose of this change is to allow these committees to function until new members receive training. This proposal passed unanimously.

**FS-17-019: (UCC-17-018a,b,c) CLASS: Journalism and Mass Media—Film Studies:** This degree in Film & Television Studies creates a new degree using existing courses taught across several departments. While no one from JAMM was present to speak to this curricula change, Senator Nicotra from the English Department volunteered to comment. The English Department is a partner for this degree. Senator Nicotra commented that this was an interdisciplinary program. It has aspects of film and TV production as well as aspects of criticism and the study of film as an Art. The proposal passed without objection.

**FS-17-020 (UCC-17-019a,b,c) Biological Sciences—Medical Science Program:** Professor Nagler (Biological Sciences) was invited to speak in favor of the creation of a new major called Medical Sciences. Professor Nagler stated that the program was designed to prepare students for any type of health care profession. He noted that no program like this existed in the State of Idaho. The curriculum works with the other majors in Biological Sciences and uses existing courses. A Senator raised a concern about the omission of some chemistry courses that he felt were necessary. More generally, the Senator wondered whether the curriculum prepared someone for graduate school, if they didn’t go into medical school. Professor Nagler asserted that this would be our most difficult major and would certainly prepare students for graduate school. He also noted that electives could be added. He added that this program would be useful for someone going into law or hospital administration as well.

A Senator expressed concern that this new major might take students away from the program in exercise science & health, which also prepares students for medical professions. She wondered how the marketing and advising for pre-health programs would work? Professor Nagler answered that any four-year degree, could be used by students planning to go to medical school. He felt that this new program would be marketed by the University especially because the President was interested in promoting the degree. He didn’t believe that those involved in advising would necessarily direct students into this program. A Senator agreed that he didn’t think there would be any attempt to make this the default program for the 800 students interested in pre-health programs.

A Senator suggested making a friendly amendment to add the exercise science & health program to the proposal as a similar program in Idaho. Professor Nagler did not wish to do this, since he did not consider the curriculum of the two programs as similar. The Senator noted that the program at Montana State in exercise science was included in the proposal as a similar program in the area.
A motion (Vella/Hrdlicka) was made to add the UI program in exercise science & health as a similar program. Program Nagler stated that this new program had a distinctive curriculum and was not similar to any existing program in the state. The discussion that followed seemed to lead to a consensus that there were other programs in the state that prepared students to go into the health professions, but that this new program offered a different curriculum from these other programs. The motion failed 5-10-4. Another motion was offered to drop the Montana State program as being a similar program. This was accepted as a friendly amendment. A Senator asked about the estimate that fifty students would enroll in this program in the first year. Professor Nagler acknowledged that this was an estimate based in part on how many new students in Biological Sciences expressed an interest in such a program. The proposal, as amended, to accept the new major in Medical Sciences passed without objection.

FS-17-021 (UCC-17-001) Graduate Admissions: Chair Brandt invited Dean of the Graduate School Jerry McMurtry to speak in favor of these proposed changes. Dean McMurtry explained that the revisions were aimed at updating the descriptions of the graduate admissions process. A Senator wondered why the document didn’t separate out the sections for domestic students, from the sections for international students.

Professor McMurtry stated that in a way the document does that. All students must meet the first set of requirements, and the latter part of the document specifies what extra requirements international students must meet. Another question asked about the international accrediting agencies we used, when accepting an international degree. Dean McMurtry stated that they use the World Accreditation Directory to guide them. A Senator expressed support for the new guidelines and noted that not everyone in the world delivered higher education in the same way that we do. Our admission’s policies have inhibited our international enrollment. Dean McMurtry stated that the purpose of these changes was to open-up our policies to enhance our ability to attract international students. There was a short discussion of the lack of flexibility in enrollment deadlines and how this might affect our recruitment efforts. Dean McMurtry stated that it wasn’t a strict deadline and that students could still submit materials. He stated that Graduate Council has discussed the possibility of open enrollment, but hasn’t agreed to that yet.

A Senator inquired about international students having to pass level six of the language proficiency test. Sometimes students cannot complete level six by October. Dean McMurtry stated that if all the materials are ready to go, a student will be admitted as soon as they demonstrate that they have achieved the necessary level. There was some discussion of the possible difficulties of allowing transcripts that weren’t official. Dean McMurtry stated that they have been too risk averse and that was affecting enrollment. He expressed confidence in their ability to discern whether documents were fraudulent. The proposed changes to the graduate admission requirements passed without objection.

December 2016 Graduate List: After having patiently sat through the entire meeting, the Registrar’s Office presented the December graduation list. A motion (Folwell/Wolf) to approve the list passed unanimously.

Adjournment: With no new business and darkness gathering outside, a motion (Wolf/Folwell) to adjourn passed unanimously at 4:57.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Crowley, Secretary to Faculty Senate and Faculty Secretary