University of Idaho
Regular Meeting of the Faculty
Minutes
2010-11 Meeting #3 Thursday May 5, 2011

Call to Order: President Nellis called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. (Pacific) and welcomed faculty from Coeur d’Alene, Boise, Idaho Falls, Twin Falls and Moscow and thanked them for being in attendance. He then asked Provost Baker to honor faculty who had passed away during the year.

In Memoriam: Provost Baker requested a few moments of silence in memory of:

Earl E. Gray
Professor Emeritus of Electrical Engineering
-- December 2010 --

Grant B. Hall
Extension Professor Emeritus
-- December 2010 --

George G. Hespelt
Professor Emeritus of Electrical Engineering
-- November 2010 --

R. Loren Kambitsch
Extension Professor Emeritus
-- September 2010 --

President Nellis then asked the Secretary of the Faculty, Professor Hill, to determine the quorum across five sites: Idaho Falls, Coeur d’Alene, Boise and Twin Falls and Moscow. The quorum was met. There were 19 faculty from sites across the state and 108 in Moscow, total 127. Thus, all sites were strongly represented.

Minutes: President Nellis requested approval of the minutes of Meeting #2 [for which there was not a quorum] (Marshall/Panttaja). Approved.

Announcements: Tomorrow the first four finalists for Vice President for Finance and Administration are on the Moscow campus. It is important to have large participation of faculty, staff and administrators. In addition, in the summer, we will celebrate the Idaho Repertoire Theater. Please see Dean Panttaja for a brochure and the summer schedule.

President Nellis then asked Provost Baker to announce faculty who had been promoted.

Provost Baker announced by college, faculty who were promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor with tenure:

Zaid Abdo, Associate Professor of Mathematics
Hirotachi Abo, Associate Professor of Mathematics
Eric Brauns, Associate Professor of Chemistry
Matthew Brehm, Associate Professor of Architecture and Interior Design
Luke Erickson, Associate Extension Professor and Eastern District Extension Educator
Stephanie Etter, Associate Extension Professor & Southern District Extension Educator
Provost Baker offered congratulations to those promoted and was joined by the assembly in a generous round of applause.

The Provost then announced, by college, faculty who were promoted from Associate Professor to Professor:

Kenneth Cain, Professor of Fish and Wildlife Resources
Douglas Cole, Professor of Microbiology, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry
Matthew Doumit, Professor of Animal and Veterinary Sciences
Daniel Eveleth, Professor of Business
Alan Gemberling, Professor of Music
Linda Gossett, Extension Professor and Southern District Extension Educator
Terrance Grieb, Professor of Business
John Hall, Professor of Animal and Veterinary Sciences
Kerry Huber, Professor of Food Science
Simon Kattenhorn, Professor of Geological Sciences
Torrey Lawrence, Professor of Music
Marsha Lockard, Extension Professor and Southern District Extension Educator
Anne Marshall, Professor of Architecture and Interior Design
Michele O’Neill, Professor of Business
Lee Ostrom, Professor of Engineering
Andrzej Paszczynski, Professor of Microbiology, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry
Barbara Petit, Extension Professor and Eastern District Extension Educator
Timothy Prather, Professor of Plant, Soil and Entomological Sciences
Martha Raidl, Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences
Daniel Strawn, Professor of Plant, Soil and Entomological Sciences
Todd Thornsteinson, Professor of Psychology and Communication Studies

Provost Baker offered congratulations to those promoted and tenured and was joined by the assembly in a generous round of applause.
The President turned proceedings over to the Senate Chair, Professor Eveleth for the Report of the Faculty Senate and business meeting of the faculty.

Report of Faculty Senate: The Senate Chair provided a general outline of the process via which policy can be initiated and/or changed. Any member of the university community can initiate policy change that then works through committee and then to senate and may be approved or denied at each step. Other steps include vetting by General Counsel to determine compliance with present State Board of Education (SBOE)/Regents policy and university policy (which have precedence, respectively). Finally, recommended policy changes go to the President for his approval or denial and in some cases (for example NOIs) also go to the SBOE/Regents for their approval or denial.

Chair Eveleth then outlined the presentation of the proposed policy changes. These would be presented in three groups (as indicated on the agenda). Group 1: those that were editorial or minor policy changes, and/or non-controversial. It was proposed to consider these as a group unless there was a request to discuss any of the proposed changes and if so they would be put into Group 2. Group 2: those the senate leadership considered would benefit from a general discussion. Group 3: constitutional changes.

The Chair called for requests for discussion of proposed policy changes in Group 1. There being no requests, it was moved (Marshall/Hill) to approve FS 11-026, 036, 037, 038, 040, and 042 as a group. Approved with 3 opposed. Coming as seconded motions the question was called. Approved.

FS 11-011 – New FSH Dual Career Accommodation: The Chair outlined the issues and process of this policy change. The previous year, the term “partner” had been used, but would be contrary to state legislation and SBOE/Regent’s policy. This year the policy had been amended, substituting the term “spouse”. It was hoped that this would provide a step towards the longer-term change desired by faculty. There being no further discussion, the question was called. Approved with one opposed.

FS 11-012 – FSH 3750 Educational Fee and Tuition Deduction: This change was to remove the present restriction on spouse fees and benefits that limited them to employees having been employed at the university for less than four years. There being no further discussion, the question was called. Approved with none opposed.

FS-11-014 – New FSH Professional Development and Learning. A new policy to support opportunities for employees to engage in professional development, learning and training. There being no further discussion, the question was called. Approved with none opposed.

FS-11-022 – FSH 1565 - Faculty Ranks – Clinical Faculty. This change redefined Clinical faculty ranks from those of Temporary Faculty, to Permanent faculty under a separately identified category. The change would be of benefit to those units such as Journalism and Mass Media (JAMM) that could then appoint Clinical Faculty as non-tenure track faculty. These were experts who did not have a terminal degree but who have extensive industry experience. This flexibility would facilitate accreditation requirements for JAMM. Professor Bird clarified a question that had been raised about the possibility of providing multi-year contracts for these positions. This was not presently possible under SBOE/Regent’s policy. However, faculty desire to initiate such a change had been broadly discussed. It was considered a good approach to seek approval of the policy change as presently written and to work with SBOE/Regent’s staff to initiate a change in Regent’s policy that would facilitate use of multi-year contracts for these faculty in a reasonable time-frame, hopefully, in the following year. Two additional points were made: initiation of appointment of such a position would be in the unit and need dean’s approval. The second being that clinical faculty will enjoy the same academic freedom as tenure track and tenured faculty.
Questions: Does the proposed policy allow Clinical Faculty to serve on doctoral committees? It was pointed out that this policy would need to be considered in the context of current policy that states members of a committee shall not sit on graduate committees for a student enrolled in a degree that is higher in rank than they themselves possess.

There being no further discussion, the question was called. Approved with five opposed.

FS-11-024 – FSH 3520 F-9 Tenure Extension: This policy change was designed to provide flexibility in the tenure clock (one year extension) for a faculty member who becomes the parent of a child by birth or adoption.

Questions/Discussion: Would this policy also apply in the case of a court appointed guardianship?
Professor Eveleth responded that guardianship could be considered under section B of the policy “for other circumstances”.

Professor Springett noted that guardianships can be awarded under widely different circumstances and to include guardianships as a specific category may not be compatible with sound policy development.

The Chair noted that if it was considered worthy of further exploration, an option would be to request Faculty Affairs Committee to consider further policy modification in consideration of court appointed guardianships. There being no further discussion, the question was called. Approved with none opposed.

FS-11-044 – FSH 3450 Presidential Actions to Manage Expenditures to Respond to Financial Challenges. Professor Eveleth explained that in the previous year in response to revised SBOE/Regent’s policy, that the university had implemented its own interim policy that included language to manage furloughs in response to financial challenges. SBOE/Regents policy refinement had now required further refinement of university policy to be consistent with the former. The policy had originated in the Office of the General Counsel and had undergone some further revision by Faculty Affairs Committee and Faculty Senate. There being no further discussion, the question was called. Approved, with five opposed.

FS-11-025 FSH 1565 Clinical Faculty and Associated Faculty Voting (requires 2/3 majority). To include Clinical Faculty rank under university faculty in 1520 (Constitution). Also to clarify associated faculty’s voting and /or participation rights: Adjunct Faculty have the privilege of participating without vote in University Faculty Meetings. Members of the Affiliate Faculty may participate with vote by virtue of their voting status in their home unit. There being no further discussion, the question was called. Approved, with over 2/3 majority and two opposed.

FS-11-039 FSH 1580 Bylaws of Faculty Senate (requires majority). These were minor operational changes streamlining reporting of senate actions from restrictions on periodic publication of the Register, to on-line reporting. There being no further discussion, the question was called. Approved by majority vote with none opposed.

FS-11-043 NOI – Martin School: Under a new proposed structure the Martin School would house former units and programs of International Studies, Philosophy and Political Science, streamlining administrative structures, facilitating curricular collaboration and generating some operational efficiencies. There being no further discussion, the question was called. Approved, with two opposed.

Professor Eveleth thanked the faculty for valuable input and then ceded the floor back to President Nellis.
President’s Comments: The President shared his passion and commitment to the shared governance model that is inherent in the culture and works so well at the University of Idaho. This cohesive team and team work had served the university well in our recent, very difficult fiscal period.

The President thanked outgoing Senate Chair, Dan Eveleth for his outstanding leadership this year, and had truly enjoyed working with him, as an outstanding leader. He also thanked Vice Chair, Paul Joyce and hoped to continue to work with him, and appreciated the leadership he has shown. The President noted that, Faculty Secretary Rod Hill was ending his three year term and conveyed special thanks for his leadership during the last three years. He appreciated all that he had achieved and also enjoyed working with him. The President noted that Hill is a fellow in the American Council on Education National Fellows Program. For the fellowship, he had been working at the University of Michigan and in Washington, DC and was also working with the President on several issues. President Nellis then continued on to announce his selection of the new Faculty Secretary, through recommendation of the search committee and senate. Professor Gail Eckwright had agreed to serve. He said Gail was very proud to accept, making special note that she was the first woman1 to serve in this role, something we should all be very proud of as well.

The President noted that there has been cooperation at multiple levels across the university in a difficult year and this is exemplified by the development of the Strategic Plan 2011-2015. The President thanked the many contributors across the university community who had contributed to the development of the Strategic Plan. The four goals: 1. Teaching and Learning, 2. Scholarly and Creative Activity, 3. Outreach and Engagement, and 4. Community and Culture, captured the scope and vision of our plan in the context of the resources.

The university had enjoyed many successes despite experiencing a difficult year. UI plays a unique role as part of the fabric of the state on over 70 sites with extension offices in 42 out of 44 counties statewide. We truly are Idaho’s university. In the context of the Strategic Plan, promoting our entrepreneurial spirit, bringing the talents of the faculty and staff in supporting student success, promoting an engaged environment with a commitment to sustainability and meeting the needs of our state, the nation and the world. In research this past year, the faculty had submitted over 1,000 proposals worth over $300 Million. He noted that Vice President for Research and Economic Development, Jack McIver has worked hard to establish an environment for success in interdisciplinary research. Professors Sanford Eigenbrode and Michael O’Rourke had run a highly successful international conference in Coeur d’Alene in September-October, 2010 entitled “Enhancing Communication in cross-disciplinary research” as part of a National Science Foundation award. Dr. Eigenbrode was also the principal investigator on a recent multi-disciplinary award from USDA, the largest single award in the university’s history, $20 million studying the impact of climate change on the barley and wheat industries in the north-west. President Nellis noted that our interdisciplinary focus is giving the university a competitive edge. The president announced that Dr. Charles Buck had accepted the appointment as the Associate Vice President for Northern Idaho. Dr. Buck had been the Director of the Discovery Park at Purdue University, and will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to his leadership role at the UI Coeur d’Alene Center. The University of Idaho continued to attract high quality students. In 2010-11, 22 new National Merit Scholars had come to study at the university being attracted by our commitment to student success and our quality faculty. The university continued to be an outstanding value; for example, PayScale.com had ranked the university based on the high life-time income return on student investment in their

1 Kathy Probasco served as Acting Faculty Secretary in 1988 and 1989, after the retirement of Bruce Bray and before the appointment of Duane LeTourneau in January of 1990.”
education. UI ranked 52nd of public universities and 83rd overall in comparison to all public and private universities.

The university was on target towards the president’s goal of 16,000 students by 2020. An example of the extended reach of the university was the 36 new on-line courses developed through the work of the Director of Distance and Extended Education, Dr. Rick Fehrenbacher and his team. The university continued to strongly support student success. In 2010-11 over 5,000 financial aid packages had been provided to students. President Nellis was proud of student accomplishments and student engagement in the community. More than 3,800 students had contributed more than 150,000 hours in community service, and were also supported by dedicated faculty.

Turning to the topic of the legislative session, the president noted that state appropriations to the university had been cut by $25 million over the past three years. He noted that the university community was doing an outstanding job with much reduced resources, but we are approaching a breaking point. He reflected that the university is an economic engine in the Idaho economy, there being a $9 to $10 return to the state for every dollar invested in the university. The state economy would be increasingly dependent on the university as more than 2/3 of new jobs generated in the state will require some post-secondary education (http://cew.georgetown.edu/jobs2018).

The constitutional change (SJR 101), providing the university with flexibility in the use of tuition funds had been strongly supported by the community with a 64% approval. Moving on to address issues around federal government support of higher education, the president noted that recent increases in Pell grants would see a huge reduction nationally in 2012-13 from $37 billion to $25 billion. This will clearly impact our students.

Considering the history of negotiations in setting student fees and tuition, the State Board and Regents in an historic decision for the first time awarded the university an increase as requested of 8.4%. President Nellis noted support for the proposed tuition increase had been provided by the outstanding work of ASUI leadership, Steven Parrott and Samantha Perez, in collaboration with the Director for Planning and Budget Keith Ickes and the President. The four had worked to engage across the state with the Regents to explain how recent cuts in state funding and increases in running costs had effectively decreased the realized university budget to historically low levels. The annual cost for a student to enroll at UI was still great value at $5,800 with the average cost at peer institutions being around $8,000. President Nellis noted that the combination of fiscal factors now meant that the university had turned the corner, but there was now a great need to fiscally stabilize the stressed university budget.

The President noted that UI represented quality and students greatly appreciated the friendliness of faculty and staff. The Faculty Club had been a recent addition to campus life that was providing a great forum for faculty to come together for informal discussion, further building community across the university. In 2010-11, the President had implemented the rank of Distinguished Professor. The first three recipients awarded the title had made outstanding contributions to their disciplines and to the university. They are Distinguished Professor Dan Bukvich, Lionel Hampton School of Music, Distinguished Professor Jean’ne Shreeve, Chemistry and Distinguished Professor, Michael Scott, Fish and Wildlife Resources.

President Nellis concluded by affirming that we will focus upon what we can do and not what we can’t do. He is committed with all of his energy to move the university forward. He encouraged all to attend the end of year celebration at the President’s residence.

There were no questions. It was moved (Hill/Joyce) to adjourn at 4:14 p.m. (Pacific).
Respectfully submitted,
Rodney A. Hill, Secretary of the Faculty