

University of Nevada, Reno
2006-07 Faculty Senate

Meeting Minutes September 21, 2006

RSJ 304

Meeting 4

1. Roll Call and Introductions

Denise Baclawski (Provost's), Cynthia Birk (COBA), Bob Chaires (HHS), Bob Chaires for Judith Sugar (HHS), Gale Craviso (Medicine), Maureen Cronin (Student Services), David Crowther (COE), Donnelyn Curtis (Library), Dyane Duan for Normand LeBlanc (SOM), William Follette (CLA), Greg Gardella (IT), Michelle Gardner (President's Division), Hatice Gecol (Engineering), Howard Goldbaum (Journalism), Terry Henner (Medicine), Guy Hoelzer (COS), Cindy Kiel (Research), Tom Lean (A & F), Elliott Parker (COBA), Melanie Perish for Stefanie Scoppettone (Development), Ron Phaneuf (Science), Mark Pinsky (COS), Hans-Peter Plag (Science), Chris Porada for Esmail Zanjani (CABNR) Steve Rock (Education), Nelson Rojas (CLA), JoAnne Skelly (COOP), Mary Stewart (CLA), Patricia Swager (Medicine), Debra Vigil (Medicine), Virginia Vogel (CLA), Leonard Weinberg (CLA), Leah Wilds (CLA).

Absent: Barbara Scott (SOM).

Guests: Nick Coltrain (NV Sagebrush), Eric Herzik (CLA), Johnson Makoba (CLA), Sarah Ragsdale (ASUN Senate), Jim Richardson (Justice Studies), Steve Zink (IT).

2. Request to Approve the August 31, 2006 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Curtis/Follette to approve minutes as written

ACTION: Passed unanimously

3. Chair's Report:

Chair Guy Hoelzer welcomed the new senator from the College of Education, David Crowther. This completed the 2006-07 senate roster. The Evaluation and Merit Policy language was scheduled to go to the Board of Regents in October after a minor change by the Counsel of Chairs. The final change was with the word amount which did not work for all campuses, so the word "amount" was changed to "grade." The Job Abandonment Policy was also scheduled to be heard in October for the first time. The senate chairs would support the failure of the motion altogether as the Leave without Pay Policy addressed the abandonment issue. The executive board received draft language on the new Degree Revocation Policy. The draft language would allow the institutions to revoke a student's degree for suspicion of behavioral misconduct while perusing their degree. The language very broadly defined misconduct and the board was waiting for the new language and would then send it to the senate. The board would also make sure that the ASUN and GSA had copies of the most current language. The driving force behind the policy could have been the plagiarism that happened at the Dental School, where the involved parties had already received their degrees.

Two departments (Educational Leadership and Math) have been placed under receivership. The receivership process was to resolve issues that could not be resolved by the department or dean, and could be requested by the dean, the department, or the provost's office. The length of time a department could be in receivership was from 1-3 years. The executive board would like to have written guidelines created and would probably charge the bylaws and code committee with the task. Some research has been done by the board and would be sent forward to the committee.

4. Accreditation Committee Chair, Eric Herzik Accreditation Update:

Eric Herzik distributed a handout regarding the Decennial Accreditation process. The process would require the university to do a comprehensive self-study that would examine the goals, operations and achievements of the university. The Accreditation Committee was attempting to engage the campus community, through fora, surveys, and focus groups. The committee was working on Standard 9 (Institutional Integrity), which included everything from the mission statement to intercollegiate athletics. Herzik hoped that the committee would be able to have a draft report in December, and

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once the draft report was published, the committee would encourage feedback from faculty, staff and students. The accreditation site visit team was scheduled to arrive on campus October 1-3, 2007. The team would review the self-study prior to arriving on campus and might talk to different groups and individuals on campus. The main concern of the accreditation team would be that the university was doing what it said it was doing. For example, was the university fulfilling its mission statement or providing the courses listed in the course catalog? Possible areas of concern for the university would be the commitment to student advising, physical space, and faculty morale. The committee would be sending out an anonymous survey and would like all faculty, staff and students to fill it out and submit it. Only the frequencies would go into the self-study to get a campus-wide perception. UNR is the only land grant college and the only university in the region with a medical school in two different locations. The accrediting body is the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).

5. Jim Richardson, Director, Judicial Studies Program, Proposal for the School of Social Research and Justice Studies

Jim Richardson spoke about the proposal for the School of Social Research and Justice Studies which was reviewed and approved by the executive board over the summer. The university is the center of judicial education in the country and the world. There are two organizations at the university that do a large amount of educating in the National Counsel of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and the National Judicial College which brings about 3000 judges per year. This configuration would be a benefit to the new school. The new school would house Criminal Justice, Sociology and the Grant Sawyer Center for Justice Studies. The board felt that their concerns were addressed and as no new resources were required, there was collaboration with the departments involved, and that the proposal for the new school would benefit the departments and students that the proposal would go before the Board of Regents in October 2006. The senators discussed the proposal, asked reporting lines, and questioned how no new resources would be needed. Richardson said that the two departments would examine their curriculum for redundant courses, and reorganization of courses, and that the Sawyer Center would do more grant writing to bring in other funding. Also discussed by senators was changing the report to read the executive board, not an ad hoc committee reviewed the proposal. The executive board should in the future notify the senate of proposal reviews conducted during the summer.

6. Steven Zink, Vice President, Information Technology: Update on the Technology Task Force

Steve Zink updated the senate on the Technology Task Force and the ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) process, after giving some background on the process, by which the original ERP process was derailed, and a second RFP was produced, Zink went on to talk about where the campus was in the process. One of the biggest concerns for the campuses would be funding. This project would be very costly, especially if not funded or implemented appropriately. The implementation process would be the greatest concern for campuses. Once the vendor was chosen, Zink would have a better idea of what the campus would need to act on. The concern for the campuses should be the implementation process. UNR's system is very outdated and has been piecemealed together, so it is critical for the university to have a new system. The decentralized system was what the university was endorsing; however, the regents are concerned that they would not have control over the data under that type of a system. Implementation would be the bulk of the cost for the new system and once the software product was purchased; there would be maintenance fees and new IT people needed.

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7. New Business

A senator liked the summaries of the senate meetings that were sent out from the senate office and hoped that they would be continued. Cindy Kiel with the Office of Sponsored Projects would like the senate to choose a chair for the Conflict of Interest Appeal Committee. The subject of the shortage of travel funds was brought up and Cindy Kiel responded that the money for travel comes from overhead costs. A senator suggested that the university could do some fundraising to cover the difference that was allocated and what was needed in the travel funds. It was brought up that there was an unofficial hiring freeze on campus. There was discussion on whether or not the senators should reserve the period from 1:30 to 5 pm for senate meetings as a part of their responsibility as senators, regardless of what adjournment time was listed on the agenda, or if senate business was to go beyond the adjournment time listed on the agenda, that senators vote to stay past that time to finish the business rather than to just assume that senators would choose to stay. There was discussion for supporting both viewpoints, but no resolution of the issue.

Meeting adjourned 4:00 pm