

FACULTY COUNCIL
Tuesday, November 15, 2016
3:30 – 5:15 pm
Executive Boardroom (2390), University Capitol Centre

MINUTES

Councilors Present: F. Durham, A. Durnev, R. Ganim, T. Marshall, R. Oral, P. Romitti, G. Ryan, J. Szot, K. Tachau, E. Wasserman, S. Vos.

Officers Present: C. Bohannan, E. Gillan, P. Snyder, T. Vaughn.

Councilors Excused: S. Daack-Hirsch, L. Plakans, H. Udaykumar, M. Voigt, J. Yockey.

Councilors Absent: C. Thomas.

Guests: K. Kregel (Office of the Provost), J. Menninger (Emeritus Faculty Council), M. Payne (Daily Iowan), L. Zaper (Faculty Senate Office).

I. Call to Order – President Vaughn called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

II. Approvals

- A. Meeting Agenda – Professor Vos moved and Professor Marshall seconded that the agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- B. Faculty Council Minutes (October 4, 2016) – Professor Ryan moved and Professor Marshall seconded that the minutes be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- C. Draft Faculty Senate Agenda (December 6, 2016) – Professor Tachau moved and Professor Wasserman seconded that approval of the draft agenda be postponed until the end of the meeting, because issues may arise in the course of today’s meeting that may need to be added to the Senate agenda. The motion carried unanimously.
- D. Committee Appointments (Pete Snyder, Chair, Committee on Committees)
 - Paul Romitti (Epidemiology) to fill the unexpired term of Shelly Campo (Community & Behavioral Health) on the Faculty Council, 2016-17
 - Audrey Saftlas (Epidemiology) to fill the unexpired term of Shelly Campo (Community & Behavioral Health) on the Faculty Senate, 2016-17
 - Eric Gidal (English) to replace Mary Adamek (Music) on the Faculty Senate, Spring 2017
 - Laurie Croft (Teaching & Learning) to fill the unexpired term of Shelly Campo (Community & Behavioral Health) on the Council on Teaching, 2016-18
Professor Vos moved and Professor Marshall seconded that the committee appointments be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- E. Faculty Senate Elections 2017 Vacancy Tally – President Vaughn reminded the group that the Senate had approved the instructional-track faculty policy earlier this year. That policy allows instructional-track faculty to participate in the Faculty Senate, so

this year's collegiate voting populations include the approximately 290 lecturers, distributed among various colleges. Professor Marshall moved and Professor Vos seconded that the Faculty Senate Elections 2017 Vacancy Tally be approved. Professor Wasserman noted that the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has not yet approved a collegiate policy for instructional-track faculty. He questioned how a number for instructional-track faculty in CLAS could be determined prior to the college defining who its instructional-track faculty are. Professor Marshall commented that it was her understanding that the university-wide policy for instructional-track faculty approved last spring covered all such faculty throughout the university. Professor Tachau pointed out that a college could choose to have no lecturers. If a college does choose to have lecturers, however, then the college must create an instructional-track faculty collegiate policy that conforms to the university-wide policy. Past President Bohannon observed that this vacancy tally is based on the current existing population of lecturers. She added that the university-wide policy confers eligibility for Faculty Senate on lecturers. Colleges could choose to exclude lecturers from collegiate governance, however.

Secretary Gillan noted that the voting populations listed on the vacancy tally for each college include all types of currently-eligible faculty (tenured, tenure-track, clinical-track, research-track, and lecturers). Some colleges experienced significant increases to their voting populations this year through the addition of lecturers. Secretary Gillan indicated, for example, that the CLAS voting population grew from 639 last year to 811 this year, primarily through the addition of lecturers. Because of this increase in population, CLAS added one more seat to its delegation this year.

Professor Ganim commented that the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is in the process of updating its operations manual to include the status of lecturers as faculty. This would still need to be approved by the College's Faculty Assembly and then by a vote of the entire collegiate faculty. Finalization might not occur until the end of this academic year. Past President Bohannon stressed that the university can decide for the university's purposes that lecturers count as faculty; the university-wide instructional-track faculty policy now permits lecturers to serve on Faculty Senate. In response to a question, Past President Bohannon reminded the group that the university-wide instructional-track policy caps the number of such faculty serving in the Senate at *no more than 10 percent of the senators from any college, or one senator, whichever is greater*. Therefore, CLAS could have a maximum of two instructional-track faculty in its delegation next year.

Professor Tachau commented that CLAS could vote to have no lecturers. Past President Bohannon responded that, in this situation, any CLAS lecturers that had been voted into the Senate would simply be replaced. Professor Wasserman commented that CLAS could vote that lecturers are not deemed to be faculty. Past President Bohannon responded that that would be irrelevant for the university-wide instructional-track policy. Professor Tachau noted that this issue is very controversial within CLAS. She added that disciplines may soon be re-shuffled within the three CLAS groups. Councilors agreed that the sooner CLAS resolves its internal lecturer issues, the better. There was support for having President Vaughn contact CLAS Dean Djalali with a request to expedite the resolution. Professor Tachau observed

that while some CLAS departments are very dependent upon lecturers, other departments are concerned that, given the College's financial situation, they will never get tenure-track lines again unless limits are imposed on the number of instructional-track faculty. Past President Bohannon noted that the university-wide policy does not impose a cap on instructional-track faculty, but that a college could impose a cap.

The motion to approve the Faculty Senate Elections 2017 Vacancy Tally carried unanimously.

President Vaughn welcomed Professor Romitti, from the College of Public Health, to the Council.

III. New Business

- *Discussion and Prioritization of Top Ten Initiatives*

President Vaughn reminded the group that the Senate had solicited proposals from all faculty last month for initiatives that could have a major impact on the teaching, research, and/or service missions of the university. Prior to today's meeting, Councilors were provided with the 18 ideas submitted and were asked to rank the suggestions. Today, the Council will rank and discuss the suggestions as a group, and then send the top-ranking 8-10 suggestions to the central administration for review and possible implementation by the Strategy Implementation Team and the Operations Team.

Professor Tachau raised several preliminary questions. She asked why the Council, rather than the Senate, was doing this task; whether input had been solicited from collegiate governance groups; and what the time sensitivity of this task was. In response to the last question, President Vaughn indicated that central administration had hoped to have the Council's top suggestions by the beginning of November, but was willing to wait until after the Council meeting. Regarding the scope of solicitation, the request for suggestions had been sent to all faculty. Past President Bohannon noted that at its last meeting, the Council had decided that the Council should undertake this task. Secretary Gillan added that the Council had performed a somewhat similar task last year. Professor Tachau commented that the mass solicitation seemed to be a rather scattershot way of obtaining suggestions. Although some good ideas may be submitted by individual faculty members, it was unclear whether these ideas would really be representative of the faculty. Discussions within collegiate bodies might well have yielded suggestions based upon collegiate priorities. She expressed concern about worthy ideas that may not have come forth through this process. Vice President Snyder commented that a mass solicitation of faculty had seemed like the most inclusive approach. The Council could still add ideas of its own to the suggestion pool. President Vaughn noted that there would be other points in the Path Forward process when faculty members could submit feedback on proposed initiatives. Professor Oral voiced appreciation for the fact that frontline faculty were informed about this process, commenting that such a notification is a somewhat rare occurrence. She expressed dismay about the general lack of communication with faculty who are not involved in governance. President Vaughn commented that in the future, this call for proposals will take place in July, allowing more time for collegiate collaboration on proposals.

Councilors then took up the task of rating the 18 proposals submitted by faculty members to the Faculty Senate website in October. Councilors had been instructed to rate each proposal on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 indicating *Top priority* and 5 indicating *Not a priority at this time*. During this portion of the meeting, President Vaughn moved through the list of proposals, asking for a show of hands to indicate how many councilors had ranked each proposal as a 1, as a 2, etc. Secretary Gillan tracked the votes on an Excel spreadsheet displayed on a screen, adding in the votes of those Councilors who could not attend, but had sent in their scores.

Following this process, Councilors put forth several new proposals. Past President Bohannon suggested requesting an increase for the Faculty Senate budget from \$16,000 annually to \$25,000-\$30,000 annually in order to greatly increase funds available for programming (bringing in speakers, co-sponsoring events with other groups). The other governance groups have access to funds for programming. Professor Tachau suggested prioritizing resources in order to lower the ratio of students to tenured/tenure-track faculty in all of the undergraduate colleges to match the best ratio in the Big Ten Academic Alliance within five years. She stressed that a big, bold proposal was needed to counteract efforts to teach more students, more cheaply, with fewer tenured/tenure-track faculty. She added that an ad hoc committee could be formed later to determine metrics and additional specifics regarding the proposal. Professor Vos suggested that the proposal be broadened to include the colleges teaching graduate and professional students, because those enrollments have also grown. Vice President Snyder commented that if this proposal were to be passed on to the SIT and OT without more specificity, the Senate would lose control over it. He noted that salary might be a trade-off, if more tenured/tenure-track faculty were hired. Professor Tachau commented that high student to tenured/tenure-track faculty ratios were impacting research productivity, recruitment, retention and the educational experience in CLAS. Professor Ganim suggested that the proposal include interaction with collegiate deans, for a fuller picture of the situation. Votes were taken on both of these suggestions.

Councilors then turned to the 69 suggestions that were submitted last spring. The Senate officers had previously grouped these suggestions under the five general headings of *Student Success*, *Enhance Knowledge Production and Research Status*, *New Frontiers in the Arts*, *Better Futures for Iowans*, and *University Community Success*. Councilors went through the list and indicated if they wanted to consider adding any of these suggestions to the current list of top initiatives (after first determining whether the spring proposals had already been taken up by the SIT or OT). There were several suggestions (relating to post-tenure effort allocation and indirect cost recovery distribution) that the Council decided that it would be more appropriate for the Senate to explore, rather than to forward on to the SIT and OT. Councilors voted on the spring suggestions that had been moved to the current list. Secretary Gillan then sorted the spreadsheet so that the proposals appeared in order of the most to the least popular with Councilors. Noting that students would be submitting their own list of top initiatives to the SIT and OT, Professor Romitti suggested that some of the highest-ranking proposals regarding primarily students (student safety and student mental and behavioral health) be submitted separately, as student initiatives for which the faculty have strong support. Councilors then discussed merging some of their top initiatives that had similar components. They reviewed the list of top proposals to determine a final list of initiatives to submit to the SIT and OT. That list

is appended to these minutes and can now also be found on the Faculty Senate website, https://uiowa.edu/facultysenate/sites/uiowa.edu.facultysenate/files/wysiwyg_uploads/Faculty%20Senate%20Top%20Initiatives%202016.pdf.

IV. Approvals

- C. Draft Faculty Senate Agenda (December 6, 2016) – Professor Tachau suggested that a report be made to the Senate about the Council’s activities today in determining a list of the faculty’s top initiatives, based upon the suggestions solicited last month. She wondered if a discussion or report on the impact of the recent elections on future directions for the university was also needed. Past President Bohannon suggested that our local legislators be invited to a Senate meeting early in the spring semester to provide an update; the legislative session will be underway at that time, so the situation may be more clear. She added that a Senator had suggested perhaps having a discussion of the recent campus climate. Professor Ganim asked if there would be time on the agenda for a brief report from the chair of the Ad Hoc AAUP Sanction Removal Committee. Professor Wasserman remarked upon the large number of informational items that have appeared on Senate agendas over the last several years. He urged that more time at Senate meetings be set aside for discussion of issues of great relevance to faculty. He suggested that efforts be made to limit the time for informational items, perhaps by providing written reports to the Senate in advance and restricting the meeting time to questions based on the reports. Past President Bohannon commented that other university groups view the Senate meetings as one of the places to provide information to the campus community, so the Senate officers have seen an increase in requests for presentations. These requests are made with the goal of greater transparency. Vice President Snyder added that these groups often seek input from the Senate on various issues. Professor Tachau moved and Professor Ganim seconded that the draft Senate agenda be approved as revised based on this discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

- V. From the Floor – There were no items from the floor.

VI. Announcements

- The annual Faculty Senate/Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce reception for local legislators will take place on Thursday, December 1, 4:30-6:00 pm, in the Sunporch of the Iowa Memorial Union.
- The next Faculty Senate meeting will be Tuesday, December 6, 3:30 – 5:15 pm, Senate Chamber, Old Capitol.
- The next Faculty Council meeting will be Tuesday, January 24, 3:30-5:15 pm, University Capitol Centre 2390.

- VII. Adjournment – Professor Tachau moved and Professor Oral seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously. President Vaughn adjourned the meeting at 5:25 pm.