

**FACULTY COUNCIL**  
**Tuesday, January 26, 2016**  
**3:30 – 5:15 pm**  
**Executive Boardroom (2390), University Capitol Centre**

**MINUTES**

Councilors Present: P. Abbas, S. Ali, C. Benson, P. Brophy, S. Campo, S. Daack-Hirsch, E. Gillan, T. Havens, J. Kolker, G. Ryan, H. Udaykumar, M. Voigt, J. Wilcox, J. Yockey.

Officers Present: C. Bohannan, P. Snyder, A. Thomas, T. Vaughn.

Councilors Excused: S. Vos.

Councilors Absent: S. Seibert.

Guests: D. Finnerty (Office of the Provost), J. Menninger (Emeritus Faculty Council), L. Zaper (Faculty Senate Office).

I. Call to Order – President Bohannan called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm.

II. Approvals

- A. Meeting Agenda – Professor Campo moved and Professor Wilcox seconded that the agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- B. Faculty Council Minutes (December 1, 2015) – Professor Voigt moved and Professor Gillan seconded that the minutes be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- C. Draft Faculty Senate Agenda (February 16, 2016) – Professor Daack-Hirsch moved and Professor Campo seconded that the draft agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- D. Committee Appointments (Tom Vaughn, Chair, Committee on Committees)
  - Janette Taylor (Nursing) to fill the unexpired term of Jan Foote (Nursing) on the Faculty Senate, 2015-17Professor Campo moved and Professor Gillan seconded that the appointment be approved. The motion carried unanimously.  
President Bohannan welcomed new members Professor Abbas and Professor Havens to the Faculty Council.

III. New Business

- *Executive Session: Instructional Faculty Policy Update (Christina Bohannan)*

Professor Gillan moved and Professor Kolker seconded that the Council move into closed session, inviting Diane Finnerty, from the Office of the Provost, to remain in the room. The motion carried unanimously.

President Bohannon updated Councilors on recent revisions to the draft policy and sought Councilors' feedback on various aspects of the revisions. President Bohannon also commented very briefly on the Board of Regents' strategic planning process.

Professor Gillan moved and Professor Campo seconded that the Council move out of closed session. The motion carried unanimously.

- *President's Strategic Initiatives (Tom Vaughn)*

Vice President Vaughn explained that President Harreld had requested that the shared governance leadership solicit suggestions from their constituencies for strategic initiatives for the university to pursue over the next five years. Faculty members were invited to submit suggestions through the Faculty Senate website. About 60 suggestions were received. The officers divided the 60 suggestions into nine different general themes, and identified four priority areas, *service to Iowa*, *improve knowledge creation and dissemination*, *improve teaching and student development*, and *improve campus culture and faculty well-being*, which echo the pillars of the university's strategic planning over the years. [The current strategic plan is, <https://provost.uiowa.edu/files/provost.uiowa.edu/files/RenewingTheIowaPromise.pdf>.]

A strategic planning task force will review the suggestions and determine which will be implemented. Two teams will then be in charge of implementation; the strategic implementation team will be responsible for longer-term (more than eighteen months) projects, and the operations team will be responsible for shorter-term (less than eighteen months) projects. The Faculty Senate officers have suggested individuals for service on all of these committees.

Professor Voigt asked about resources to be made available by the administration to implement the selected initiatives. Vice President Vaughn responded that President Harreld wanted to see the types of projects suggested before ruling anything out because of cost, although cost will necessarily need to be considered before implementation takes place. Councilors remarked upon the broad range (in scope and theme) of recommendations suggested. Vice President Vaughn indicated that President Harreld is ultimately looking for about five "broad-brush" strategic initiatives for the university to pursue.

Professor Brophy asked about the impact of this process on the university's current vision. Vice President Vaughn responded that the university's strategic pursuit of its vision may change as a result of the strategic initiative process. Professor Wilcox observed that the strategic plan for the university must always reflect the core endeavors of teaching and research and he expressed concern that not all of these initiatives might directly touch upon those efforts. The Senate officers noted that teaching and research would always guide the university's strategic planning, but that the initiatives might be understood at a more concrete level as directions in which the university might move. Professor Brophy commented that the initiatives could be viewed as a framework to support the university's vision.

Professor Menninger, of the Emeritus Faculty Council, asked for clarification of President Harreld's concept of *strategic vision*. President Bohannon responded that President Harreld

would like to formulate a collective vision through working with the university community. Professor Menninger expressed concern that President Harreld, with his business background, might have an understanding of the concept of *strategic vision* that differs from that of the faculty, staff, and students. Vice President Vaughn stressed that this is why President Harreld is reaching out to the campus community for input. President Bohannon observed that in the past, administrators had been responsible for implementing recommendations made by strategic planning task forces. President Harreld, however, wants to include faculty, staff, and students in the implementation phase. Faculty will be asked for the first time, for example, to become involved in budgeting and therefore will have a direct voice in that process.

Professor Voigt commented that it is necessary to weigh carefully the benefits and risks of any initiatives we take on. Secretary Snyder noted that these initiatives are a starting point, not a final goal. Professor Brophy observed that this process could represent a rare opportunity to return to the university's core endeavors and re-define our brand by focusing on broad areas in which we excel. Professor Wilcox expressed concern, however, that the types of action-oriented initiatives suggested here would not lead the university to deep reflection on its fundamental mission and core endeavors. Professor Udaykumar commented that prioritization of the initiatives, given their wide variance in scope and theme, was essential and he asked who would be doing that work. President Bohannon responded that it would ultimately be the responsibility of the strategic planning task force to prioritize the initiatives. Professor Gillan commented that he interpreted the request for recommendations as an invitation to suggest initiatives that would build on the university's strengths, rather than alter the fundamental vision and mission of the institution. Vice President Vaughn observed that many of the suggestions had an interdisciplinary aspect, which might hint at a direction in which the university should move.

IV. From the Floor – President Bohannon announced that she would be attending the annual Hawkeye Caucus at the state capitol building in Des Moines on April 5. When she attended the Hawkeye Caucus event in Washington, D.C. last November, she had brought along publications by faculty members and distributed them to the alumni, legislators, etc. who stopped by her table. President Bohannon asked the group what kinds of materials she should bring to the Des Moines event. She indicated that materials related to faculty activity throughout the state would be particularly welcome. She will bring this up again as we get closer to the date.

#### V. Announcements

- Nominations for Faculty Senate elections are currently being sought. Last week faculty in colleges with Senate vacancies received mass emails instructing them to submit nominations to the Faculty Senate office by Friday, January 29. Please encourage your colleagues to participate.
- The call has gone out for nominations for the Michael J. Brody Award for Faculty Excellence in Service to the University and the State of Iowa. Please encourage your colleagues to nominate someone. The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, March 11.
- The online committee recruitment drive is scheduled to begin tomorrow, Wednesday, January 27. Please encourage your colleagues to participate.

- The next Faculty Senate meeting will be Tuesday, February 16, 3:30 – 5:15 pm, **University Capitol Centre 2520D (please note new location)**.
- The next Faculty Council meeting will be Tuesday, March 8, 3:30-5:15 pm, University Capitol Centre 2390.

VI. Adjournment – Professor Gillan moved and Professor Brophy seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously. President Bohannon adjourned the meeting at 5:30 pm.