

**FACULTY COUNCIL**  
**Tuesday, February 19, 2008**  
**3:30 – 5:15 pm**  
**Penn State Room (337 IMU)**

**MINUTES**

**Councilors Present:** G. Bulechek, C. Catney, M. Cohen, D. Drake, B. Justman, T. Mangum, K. Porter, L. Richman, L. Snetselaar, K. Tachau, and J. Woodhead

**Officers Present:** S. Kurtz, S. McGuire, M. O’Hara, and V. Sharp

**Councilors Excused:** L. Boyle, D. D’Alessandro, Y. Li, G. Russell, J. Sa-Aadu, B. Thompson

**Councilors Absent:** R. Williams

**Guests:** B. Altmaier (*College of Education*), P. Kelley (*Emeritus Faculty Council*), B. Morelli (*Press Citizen*) and Laura Zaper (*Faculty Senate*).

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

II. Approvals

A. Meeting Agenda – Professor Just moved and Past President Kurtz seconded that the agenda be approved. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Faculty Council Minutes (January 22, 2008) – Professor Richman moved and Professor Drake seconded that the minutes be approved. Professor Tachau questioned whether Professor Cohen had referred to Dean Butler or Vice President Robillard in his remarks regarding why the proposed research-track policy was a good idea. Professor Cohen confirmed that he had indeed referred to Dean Butler. Professor Mangum noted that she had earlier requested that the line, “Professor Mangum added that Interim Provost Lopes’ explanation had addressed her concern for the greater good of the university versus the pressing needs of the CCOM,” be deleted from the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

Past President Kurtz introduced new Council member Katherine Porter (Law) who will fill in for Jim Tomkovicz (Law) for spring, 2008.

### C. Senate Replacements – (Michael O’Hara)

- Katherine Porter (Law) will replace Jim Tomkovicz (Law) on the Senate and Council, spring 2008.
- Tung Yin (Law) will replace Jonathan Carlson (Law) on the Senate, spring 2008.
- Richard Smith, Otolaryngology, will replace Rita Frantz, Nursing, on the Honorary Degree Selection Committee.
- Katherine Tachau, History, will replace Sanford Markham, OB/GYN, on the Committee on Rules and Bylaws.

Past President Kurtz moved and Professor Cohen seconded that all four replacements be approved. The motion was unanimously approved.

### III. Update on Provost Search (Michael O’Hara)

Five candidates will be brought to campus. Vice President O’Hara listed the dates and times of the public events, which will include a forum and a symposium for each candidate. The first week of interviews will be February 25-29, and the second week will be March 10-14. All of this information will be posted on the Provost Search website, <http://www.uiowa.edu/provostsearch/>. Names of candidates, along with their CV’s, will be posted on the website the day before their interviews begin, with Monday candidates’ names being released on the preceding Fridays.

President Sharp noted that we are still seeking faculty moderators for the forums (three per forum, ideally from different colleges). Council members have also been invited to luncheons with the candidates.

### IV. New Business

- *Update from the Faculty Athletics Representative to the Big 10 Conference and the NCAA (Elizabeth Altmaier, Psychological and Quantitative Foundations)*

Professor Altmaier explained that she does a yearly update to the Council on athletics issues. She reported that the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) is in year four of the academic reform movement. Teams must reach a certain Academic Progress Rate (APR). An adjustment for squad size is being eliminated. Teams that do not reach their APR will be penalized. There will be an appeal process and an improvement plan model. Teams would be held accountable to benchmarks. The point of this is “to bring the bottom up,” but teams are still penalized. A team might be improving, but could lose scholarships and post-season playing opportunities, and could ultimately be put out of business, although this doesn’t usually happen.

Also, The NCAA Division I is completely re-structuring. This is important because it is taking two cabinets, the Academics Eligibility and Compliance Cabinet (on which Professor Altmaier serves) and the Championships Cabinet, and making the bottom level of the pyramid eight cabinets. This has cost and representational implications. Both of these cabinets have significant faculty representation, and there is concern that faculty representation across cabinets

may now diminish. There is a second level, which was previously called Management Council (MANCO), that has been divided into two groups, the Legislative Council (which reviews legislation - the NCAA is a legislative body, and passes a wide range of rules) and the Leadership Council (a body that will carefully examine important issues, such as commercialism, academic reform, coaches' behavior, etc.). The President's Council, called the Board of Directors, remains at the top of the pyramid. In response to Professor Tachau's request for further clarification of the re-organization of the cabinets, Professor Altmaier noted that the Academics Eligibility and Compliance Cabinet was opposed to this; it worked primarily in six subcommittees. The group's collective work was voted on by the entire group at the end of the meeting. The issues were therefore examined in terms of depth and breadth. Now, all six of the subcommittees have been made into separate cabinets, so that breadth of discussion with the whole group is no longer possible. The NCAA has touted this as a more nimble, more representative organizational structure, but faculty think it will result in fewer faculty involved in NCAA governance. The National Association of Faculty Athletics Representatives (FARA) has taken a strong position on this. The Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) is also concerned; COIA had pushed for positional requirements, such as reserving one quarter of cabinet membership for Faculty Representatives, but this was not done. Past President Kurtz questioned if schools were going to a more extended playing schedule; this has already happened. He also asked regarding progress on the de-professionalization of college sports. NCAA President Myles Brand has appointed a task force; the task force's first meeting will be April 11. The task force membership includes college presidents, athletics directors, senior women's administrators, and a single faculty representative (Professor Altmaier). There is a strong push to allow collegiate athletics to become more commercial, in order to pull in more revenue, but the creation of the task force was precipitated by proposed legislation to allow an institution to allow a commercial entity to use a student athlete's name, likeness or image.

Regarding the Big 10 Conference, the faculty representatives will hold their annual retreat in July. Please let Professor Altmaier know if you have issues you would like her to bring up at that retreat.

At the local level, there have been some ups and downs, but things are moving along. The Presidential Committee on Athletics is continuing to work on topics such as major distributions and the use of correspondence courses. The Athletics Department has issued a strategic plan.

Professor Altmaier went on to give an update on the Big 10 Network. She noted that faculty concerns with the network include the issue of athletic events being re-scheduled in order to allow the network to telecast these events live. She explained that UI athletes are not allowed to miss more than eight class days per semester. Coaches had developed schedules in accordance with this regulation, but then found that the Big 10 Network has started moving games around. Regarding non-athletic material to be shown on the network, Professor Altmaier asked the group to provide her with feedback. She explained that the Big 10 Network partially came into being because each school would have a certain amount of academic programming hours. Part of the problem, though, is that it is

expensive to create that much programming. It also takes time to create high-quality, interesting shows. One of the first shows that has been produced is a program about Dr. Ponsetti. Perhaps the Faculty Council could urge President Mason and Athletic Director Barta to involve faculty in the planning of academic programming. Professor Bulechek questioned if the other Big 10 schools are running into access problems similar to the UI's; yes, they all have, to some extent. This does not seem to be an issue that President Mason could have much influence on, due to the agreement made with the network, which requires the schools to hand over all their athletic content to the network. Professor Tachau asked what period of time the contract is for, and if there is a provision that allows UI to say that we provide this athletic content on the condition that the network does not move around the playing schedules? Professor Altmaier did not think such a provision was in the contract. Regarding the academic programming, this does not need to be live. Secretary McGuire noted that CLAS faculty have been asked to identify some programming ideas. The group hoped that the quality of this future programming would be good. Each institution controls its own academic programming time. Professor Altmaier concluded her presentation by asking Council members to contact her if they had any further questions or feedback.

- *Promoting a More Sustainable Campus (Jim Throgmorton, Urban and Regional Planning)*

Professor Throgmorton referred the group to the handout, *A Proposal to Make the University of Iowa a More Sustainable Place*, and read the following portions from it, noting first that he was speaking on behalf of a group of faculty, staff, and students that met in December to discuss actions that can be taken to make the University of Iowa a more sustainable place:

“In brief, we believe it is time for this university to take some big strides toward becoming a much more sustainable place, and by doing so to become an exemplar for action in Iowa City, the region, the state, and perhaps the U. S. as a whole. A very simple [and incomplete] but convenient way to put this is to say that now is the time for the U of Iowa to become one of the [top] ten greenest (most sustainable) universities in the country.

We recognize that many good people have already been doing good work in the general direction we advocate, and we do not seek to supplant or slight the work they have done.”

At this point, Professor Throgmorton distributed an additional handout, *Resources for the Faculty Council's Consideration of the Sustainability Initiative*, which listed *Sustainability Activities Undertaken by U of Iowa Students, Staff, and Faculty* and *Sustainability Initiatives at Other Universities and Associations Promoting Sustainable Campuses*.

He continued reading the first handout, “With this ambition in mind, we ask that the Faculty Senate take the following actions.

First, adopt a motion indicating that the Faculty Senate wants to see the University move in this general direction.

Second, instruct its officers, especially the President of the Faculty Senate, to initiate conversations on this topic with the presidents of student government

and the staff council, and jointly with them to strongly encourage President Mason to take a series of actions. Those presidential actions would include:

1. Publicly announcing her strong interest in exploring ways to make this a more sustainable campus and to work with nearby public and private organizations to promote sustainability in the Iowa City area, the region, and the state as a whole.
2. Announcing creation of a new Charter Committee for a Sustainable University/Campus.
3. Announcing that she wants the pursuit of sustainability to be included in the mission of the University, and thereby to help guide development of the university's next strategic plan.

Moreover, we recognize that the text of these various motions and proposed actions will need to be refined in recognition of the diverse interests and capacities of the various colleges, centers, departments, and organizations on campus and off.”

Secretary McGuire commented that, when he attended a CIC conference this past weekend, one day of the work sessions was devoted to the issue of sustainable campuses, and progress of the CIC institutions toward this goal. He noted that some of the campuses had created committees similar to our charter committees to coordinate initiatives in this direction. He thought that it would be important for our faculty to show support for sustainability by creating a standing committee. Professor Throgmorton stated that the president of Indiana University had formed a task force on campus sustainability; this task force has recently issued a report, which can be found at

<https://www.indiana.edu/~sustain/>.

Professor Mangum mentioned a report done by a graduate student working with Professor Craig Just, of Engineers for Sustainability, detailing a campus energy audit that had led to enormous cost-saving just with the heating and cooling system of one campus building. We often think of sustainability leading to greater cost, but here the reverse was true. Professor Tachau commented on the creative opportunities that could be unleashed by the quest for sustainability. She suggested developing symposia with other Iowa educational institutions, to move forward faster and also to educate our own campus on this topic. Secretary McGuire noted that some of the schools in the Wisconsin university system have signed on to a sustainability effort that would involve creating LEED certified buildings. Professor Mangum suggested that we bring in leaders from the sustainability movement to educate the entire campus on these issues. We would be leaders, but learning at the same time. Secretary McGuire noted that some schools have incorporated these issues into their curriculum.

Past President Kurtz requested a definition of “sustainability;” he stressed that a great deal of education needs to happen around this topic. Professor Throgmorton referred him to the definition in the footnote of his handout: “ecologically sound, socially just and economically viable.” He stated that this is one commonly accepted definition of the term. He further commented that this does not just refer to energy efficiency, but gave an example of students who had studied issues of sustainability in the UI food system. Questions of the

practicality of sustainability on the campus will need to be addressed by a wide range of faculty, staff, and students.

Past President Kurtz questioned what the next step should be. Professor Throgmorton requested that the Faculty Senate President initiate discussions on sustainability with the presidents of UISG and Staff Council, and jointly encourage President Mason to move in the directions indicated here. Secretary McGuire commented that the CIC standing committees on sustainability look closely at all three aspects of the sustainability definition cited here, and must balance these three elements carefully. Professor Tachau added that she had checked on the charges of university committees. These committees are “established, modified and dis-established by the collective action” of the UISG, Staff Council, and the Faculty Senate, and by the UI president. It is not indicated if the collective action could be vested in the officers, or if instead a motion could be offered.

Professor Tachau moved and Professor Cohen seconded that the Faculty Council instruct the Faculty Senate officers to begin this collective action with the rest of the shared governance with the aim of setting up such a committee, the charge and scope of which will probably require further definition by the first members of the committee.

Jonathan Carlson, Senior Associate to the President, commented that he was glad that Professor Throgmorton had referred to the many efforts already underway throughout the university in this area. He expressed concern that creation of a charter committee might discourage flexible pursuit of good ideas. He also noted that since Governor Chet Culver has made sustainability a part of his agenda, the university may be presented with some external mandates. He stressed that the university already has a lot of good people doing good things in this area, and too much structure might take away from the ability of the university to respond to good ideas.

Secretary McGuire stated that he had been thinking the same thing, but had been influenced by the CIC conference he had attended. He referred to an established protocol that various universities have signed on to. These initiatives were not led by a charter committee, but a faculty senate committee that could provide continuity. There must be a consistent, dedicated effort led by the faculty.

Past President Kurtz offered a friendly amendment to Professor Tachau’s motion, to revise point 2 in Professor Throgmorton’s handout. His suggested wording was “explore the creation of an appropriate committee.” Professor Tachau stated that she considered this a friendly amendment. She added that one important aspect of charter committees is that they signal that we take an issue seriously. Also, faculty are not always the leaders on issues: students often are, and we need to keep them involved. Students are in a position to educate faculty on this issue. Professor Throgmorton commented that students have told him that they have energy, but need support from faculty and administration.

Professor Mangum commented on the ongoing problem of lack of communication; many people are doing good work but are not hearing about others doing the same. Perhaps what is needed here is a defined, short-term,

presidentially-sanctioned task force, to gather information and map out an educational plan for the campus. The task force must be convened at a high level, so that people are aware of it. President Sharp stressed that we need something beyond a task force, to determine what is to be done next. Associate Provost Eckstein commented that staff should not be left out of these efforts; many staff members have already done great work on this issue and they have tremendous knowledge. Secretary McGuire concurred. He added that “students push, some faculty recognize, they both go together to the administration, the administration confirms that this is an important goal, then they reach out to a broader constituency.” At some point, however, these efforts need to be coordinated. It would be good to have faculty senators involved in this coordination effort. Extensive discussion then ensued to revise the three points in the handout to reflect the Council’s thinking. There were concerns that President Mason’s hand not be forced, as well as that this effort would appear to be entirely left up to her. The final version that emerged, suggested by Professor Mangum, was “Second, instruct its officers, especially the President of the Faculty Senate, to initiate conversations on this topic with the presidents of student government and the staff council, and jointly with them encourage President Mason to take a series of actions:

1. Explore ways to make this a more sustainable campus and work with nearby public and private organizations to promote sustainability in the Iowa City area, the region, and the state as a whole.
2. Create an appropriate committee for a Sustainable University/Campus.
3. Incorporate sustainability in the mission of the University, and thereby to help guide development of the university's next strategic plan.”

Past President Kurtz called the question. The motion was unanimously approved.

This item will now come before the Faculty Senate.

- *Cancellation of Classes (Lola Lopes, Interim Provost)*

Interim Provost Lopes stated that she was offering the members of the Council the opportunity to put together a task force to explore all the issues that arise when classes are cancelled due to weather. She noted that we have been having an unusually severe winter, and that classes have been cancelled on two different occasions. Such a cancellation had not happened in a long time. Interim Provost Lopes had previously spoken with the deans on this issue, and there was a sense that classes should be cancelled first thing in the morning, so that students don’t come to campus at all. When classes are cancelled, we hear from faculty, for example, that “my TA’s were here ready to run the labs...why couldn’t we run the labs for the students who were here?” It is very difficult to make up labs; lectures are somewhat easier. There are also the evening and weekend class sessions to consider. From the College of Dentistry, we heard about students who were going to do dental work on patients as part of their class work. It is a difficult situation, and it would be good to hear from the Faculty Senate on these issues. We could revert to the old system, and never cancel classes again, or we could have the

option of cancelling, but not do it as frequently as the area public schools, whose decisions to cancel apparently originate from the school bus company. Another option might be that if a student chooses not to come to school on a defined bad weather day, the professor is required to provide a make-up opportunity. We need to seek wide faculty input on this issue. The discussion so far has focused on teaching, but there are ramifications beyond teaching, such as what to do about staff? Professor Porter questioned if the university could just close, as at the University of Illinois. The reason we haven't done that here is that the hospital cannot close. Closing also does not solve the problem of staff, who cannot be paid for days they do not work. Professor Tachau suggested that we look at all the options. Interim Provost Lopes stated that she was proposing that the Faculty Senate consider convening a task force to get input on ways class closure impacts teaching programs, and to suggest a way to handle it as a university in a more predictable and systematic way.

Professor Tachau moved and Professor Drake seconded that the Faculty Senate consider convening a task force to get input on ways class closure impacts teaching programs, and to suggest a way to handle it as a university in a more predictable and systematic way. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### V. Announcements

- The next Faculty Council meeting will be Tuesday, March 4, 3:30 – 5:15 pm, Penn State Room, 337 IMU
- The next Faculty Senate meeting will be Tuesday, March 25, 3:30 – 5:15 pm, Senate Chamber, Old Capitol
- Nominations are still sought for the Michael J. Brody award (see Faculty Senate website: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~facsen/MJBA.htm>). The deadline is Monday, February 25.
- Charter and Non-Charter Committee Recruitment is underway; the deadline for submission of *Statements of Interest in Committee Appointments* forms is Wednesday, February 27.
- The Faculty Senate Election begins Friday, February 29, at 8:00 am. The Colleges of Business, Engineering and Public Health did not put forward nominees. The College of Nursing needs two more nominees, and the College of Law needs one. Please recruit nominees, and send names to the Faculty Senate office.
- Faculty volunteers are still sought for the IPTV annual fundraising event (Saturday, March 8, 12:00 – 5:30, Johnston IA). Please contact the Faculty Senate office if you are interested.
- A Faculty Senate Symposium will be held in April. The topic will be benefits. The symposium will be open to all faculty.

#### VI. Adjournment – President Sharp adjourned the meeting at 4:55 pm.