

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA FACULTY COUNCIL

Minutes

Tuesday, April 7, 1998

Penn State Room (#337), IMU

Members Present: L. Burmeister, B. Butler, J. Carlson, K. Clark, R. Curto, H. Diehl, M. Gilbert, P. Hlebowitsh, J. Kim, S. Kurtz, S. Lawrence, K. Mescher, F. Nelson, E. Wasserman, R. Weir, B. Wiley.

Members Absent: J. Kim, M. Stone, D. Trank, E. Tsalikian.

Members Absent (Excused): J. Kline.

Guests: Steve Cook (*Daily Iowan*), Mary Mathew Wilson (Faculty Senate Office), Tom Rocklin (Center for Teaching).

- I. President Wasserman called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m.
- II. Prof. Carlson moved to approve the agenda for the meeting. Prof. Weir seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- III. A motion was made and carried to approve the minutes of the meeting of Faculty Council held on March 3, 1998.
- IV. Announcements:
  - A. President Wasserman noted that it was the last meeting of Council for 1997-98 and thanked all of the Councillors who were completing their terms of service.
  - B. Faculty Council Election Ballots are being prepared and will be sent out this week. They are due back in the Office of the Registrar by Thursday, April 23rd.
  - C. Owen Newlin, President of the Iowa Board of Regents, will address the faculty at the Senate's last meeting on April 28th. A reception will follow. All faculty are invited. Senators should encourage their colleagues to attend.
  - D. President Coleman will present a multi-media program on Strategic Planning. to a special joint meeting of the Faculty Senate and the Staff Council on Thursday., April 9 at 3:30 p.m. in S401 PBAB.
  - E. For members of the Council whose terms will continue next year: The annual Faculty-Administration Retreat will be held on Friday, May 22 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Oakdale Hall in The Gold Room.
- V. Reports and Discussion

President Wasserman introduced Prof. Tom Rocklin, Director of the Center for Teaching. Prof. Rocklin presented a brief report about the Center for Teaching, reviewing the Center's Mission Statement, Guiding Principles, and major goals. He noted that the Center has started several programs to enhance the culture of teaching at the University of Iowa, including the listserve "Teaching Talk." The Center is also expanding its Web site to provide useful information about teaching to the community. Prof. Rocklin also reported that the nTITLE program is proceeding as planned. There were 95 involved in the

nTITLE workshops last summer, and 125 are scheduled to participate this summer. Prof. Rocklin then took questions.

Prof. Gilbert asked about the broader reception that the Center has had among University faculty. She understood that some people were reluctant to take advantage of the Center; are there places where there is suspicion about what the Center does? Prof. Rocklin replied that no faculty were being coerced into visiting the Center, although perhaps some Graduate Instructors felt pressured to do so. He was not likely to be the one to hear about negative reactions to the Center, however.

President Wasserman asked whether the Center was taking workshops into departments. Prof. Rocklin responded that the Center did so if invited by the department. The Center also solicited advice from DEOs about what their needs were for training Graduate Instructors with Center-organized training sessions.

A brief discussion of the idea of the Teaching Academy ensued. Prof. Rocklin believed that an Academy might provide opportunities for the recognition of excellent teaching. Prof. Kurtz reminded Council that the Center for Teaching would be up for review shortly, starting with a self-study. The Center is still in its trial period.

The discussion turned to the ways that the Center works to improve teaching. Prof. Rocklin stressed that when they work with a faculty member, the feedback they provide is given *only* to the faculty member. The Center does not perform evaluations for the use of others, although the faculty may use the Center's information to demonstrate good teaching to those assessing them.

Prof. Tsalikian asked if Prof. Rocklin had comments about the requirements for teaching evaluations in the new procedures for Promotion and Tenure. Prof. Rocklin noted that it would be very important for departments to think about how to perform effective peer evaluations and that he hoped the Center would be able to provide some assistance. When asked specifically about whether he had been approached by the College of Medicine for ways to evaluation clinical teaching, Prof. Rocklin reminded Council that the College of Medicine has its own unit for discussions of teaching, the Office of Consultation and Research in Medical Education.

Finally, Prof. Weir asked about general responsiveness to the Center from various areas of the University. Prof. Rocklin answered that the greatest challenges at the moment were in the College of Liberal Arts, especially in the physical sciences. He speculated that perhaps having a staff person at the Center with a background in the physical sciences would help to have the Center work more effectively to open discussion about teaching in these areas.

President Wasserman thanked Prof. Rocklin for his report.

## VI. Old Business

There was no old business.

## VII. New Business

- A. President Wasserman introduced Prof. Beth Pelton, Chair of the Committee on Faculty Welfare. Prof. Pelton presented two items. First, she announced that the Provost has approved a request for the Committee to do a new faculty needs assessment. Second, she asked the Council to

approve a change in the wording of the Charge of the Committee as found in Article III, Section 4 of the Bylaws of the University of Iowa Faculty Senate and Council (omitted text is indicated by ~~strikeout~~, added text is underlined). After some discussion and slight modifications to the proposed new text, the following motion for the Senate was passed unanimously:

*MOTION:* The Faculty Council recommends that the Faculty Senate approve the following changes to the Faculty Senate Bylaws to amend the charge to the Committee on Faculty Welfare:

The Committee on Faculty Welfare (1) receives inquiries about, examines, and makes recommendations concerning University policies, and procedures and other issues which ~~affect~~ relate to the ~~welfare~~ quality of the faculty life; (2) provides information and advice to individual faculty members with respect to faculty grievance and development, ~~and in situations not covered by established University procedures conducts its own inquiries~~; (3) ~~prepares an annual report on the reasons for resignations of faculty members with assistance from the office of Academic Affairs and with other appropriate offices and officers gathers and publicizes information on faculty needs and concerns~~; and (4) monitors University performance and policies and performance in achieving and maintaining a satisfied and diverse faculty.

- B. President Wasserman requested approval of the Committee for Review of the Office of the Vice President for Finance and University Services. A motion was made by Prof. Kurtz and seconded by Prof. Carlson:

*MOTION:* The Faculty Senate approves the Committee to Review the Office of the Vice President for Finance and University Services: Professor John Menninger, Chair (Biological Sciences), Professor Mary Blegen (Nursing), Professor Steve Collins (Electrical and Computer Engineering), Professor Barbara Eckstein (English), Professor Dave Forkenbrock (Urban and Regional Planning/Public Policy Center), Professor George Neumann (Economics), Professor Eric Rivera (Endodontics), Chandler Matthews, External Reviewer, (Ret.) Executive VP/Chief Financial Officer-- University of Michigan, Kenneth C. Moore, Staff Representative (Central Microscopy Research Facility)

The motion passed. President Wasserman noted that a copy of the self-study done by this Office is available at the Faculty Senate Office for those who would like to read it.

- C. Prof. Kurtz introduced the Committee on Committees recommended appointments list and presented the following motion:

*MOTION:* The Faculty Council approves the recommended committee appointments list submitted by the Committee on Committees in its 1998 Final Report.

Prof. Kurtz reported that no one had volunteered to serve on the Faculty-Staff Parking Appeals Committee. He asked for suggestions for those who might be willing to take this task on. He also reported that the Government Relations Committee needs one additional faculty person; the Judicial Commission needs three Clinical Faculty and five mediators; and the Selection of Central Academic Officials needs two more members. Council proceeded to approve the motion to endorse the Committee on Committees' slate of appointments.

- D. President Wasserman announced that the results of the Faculty Senate elections had already been

circulated by email to members of Council.

- E. President Wasserman introduced the final reports of the Faculty Senate Committees and the University Committees. These reports are presented annually to Council and require no discussion or action at this time.
- F. Vice-President Bob Wiley introduced the 1996-97 Faculty Senate Motion Summary. He moved, and Prof. Weir seconded, that the Motion Summary be approved. Council passed this motion.
- G. President Wasserman presented the agenda for the April 28 meeting of Faculty Senate. A motion to approved the agenda was moved, seconded and passed by members of Council.
- H. President Wasserman announced that Council would go into closed session to hear report on the Brody Awards and the Regents Awards. All visitors left the room.

VIII. President Wasserman adjourned the final meeting of the 1997-98 Faculty Council at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan C. Lawrence  
Secretary