

FACULTY SENATE
Tuesday, March 24, 2009
3:30 – 5:15 pm
Senate Chamber, Old Capitol

MINUTES

Present: D. Asprey; D. Black; H. Butcher; A. Campbell; M. Cohen; J. Cox; M. Donovan; J. Fieselmann; E. Gidal; D. Hammond; G. Jogerst; B. Justman; C. Kletzing; E. Lawrence; D. Look; D. Macfarlane; T. Mangum; J. Menninger; F. Mitros; S. Moorhead; A. Morris; N. Nisly; M. Noonan; B. Plapp; J. Polumbaum; J. Reist; C. Ringen; G. Russell; K. Schuh; C. Scott-Conner; C. Sponsler; T. Stalter; K. Tachau; R. Valentine; S. Vincent; R. Wachtel; J. Wadsworth; L. Wang; E. Wasserman; M. Wilson Kimber; S. Wolfe, J. Woodhead.

Absent: L. Ayres; G. Bergus; J. Bertolatus; L. Boyle; D. D'Alessandro; G. El-Khoury; T. Gross; C. Helms; K. Kader; L. Kirsch; T. Kresowik; S. Lutgendorf; C. McCarthy; R. Mutel; L. Robertson; T. Schnell; W. Sharp; H. Stecopoulos; N. Street; J. Tomkovicz; M. VanBeek; R. Williams; S. Wilson; C. Woodman, T. Yin.

Excused: D. Anderson; S. Bishara; G. Buettner; J. Garfinkel; A. MacVey; S. McGuire; P. Mobily; F. Nothwehr; L. Richman; T. Vaughn.

Officers

Present: D. Drake (Vice President), M. O'Hara (President); V. Sharp (Past President); S. Stromquist (Secretary).

Guests: D. Boeglin (Purchasing); J. Carlson (President's Office); B. Eckstein (Provost's Office); R. Friedrich (Emeritus Faculty Council); D. Kieft (President's Office); A. Lothson (*Daily Iowan*); B. Morelli (Iowa City *Press-Citizen*); L. Zaper (Faculty Senate).

I. Call to Order – President O'Hara called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm.

II. Approvals

- A. Meeting Agenda – President O'Hara noted that a revised agenda had been sent out to Senators yesterday, indicating that an executive session with Provost Loh would take place towards the end of the meeting. Professor Menninger moved and Professor Tachau seconded that the agenda be approved. The motion was unanimously approved.
- B. Faculty Senate Minutes (February 17, 2009) – Professor Hammond moved and Professor Woodhead seconded that the minutes be approved. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. New Business

- *New Procurement Software (Diana Boeglin, Purchasing)*

Ms. Boeglin stated that eBuy is a new procurement system that the Purchasing Office is implementing across campus. It will affect all sectors of campus. Please feel free to contact Purchasing if you have questions about the system. There is additional information about eBuy at <http://www.uiowa.edu/~purchase/purchase/eBuyAnnc.htm>. Ms. Boeglin explained that eBuy is another procurement tool available in addition to other options, such as procurement cards, e-vouchers, purchase orders, etc. The optimal use of eBuy is for regular orders with the university's biggest contracted suppliers. It is a central portal for "strategic sourcing." The university can analyze purchases made through the system and use that information to negotiate the deepest possible discounts on high-volume items. The program allows for review and analysis of purchases, which can be useful in departmental budgeting. EBuy will be integrated with the university's current purchasing systems. EBuy should not be used for purchasing high-end items with many unique specifications. It is also not for use with all suppliers; only 13 suppliers are currently allowed into the system. These 13 are high-volume suppliers with which we have negotiated contracts. Item costs will be at contract pricing. General suppliers include Office Max, Dell, HP, CDW and Grainger. In addition there are eight scientific suppliers in the system; these are some of the university's biggest suppliers. About \$62,000 in savings across campus is anticipated on purchases made from these suppliers.

To use eBuy, a shopper would log in using his/her Hawkid and password and fill a shopping cart, similar to other online shopping experiences. The shopper will then submit the cart to a requestor or an initiator. This allows the department to maintain the centralized control over spending that it already has. The requestor will review the cart items and then submit the items to the purchase ordering system. The purchase requisition will then go through regular departmental workflow routing according to dollar limits. If there is no capital equipment on the order and it is less than \$10,000, then the order only needs departmental, not Purchasing, review. A department can opt for de-centralized or centralized control of these purchases. From there the order is sent to the supplier and the subsequent steps in the process will be similar to what is currently done. The supplier will ship the order and charges, the supplier will be paid, and the payment information will become available on the Accounts Payable and Purchasing (AP/PO) systems website.

Throughout April, the eBuy system will be tested. There will be a supplier fair at the end of April, to introduce the campus to the suppliers in the system. Purchasing will also provide training sessions on eBuy. Departments may request training sessions, as well. Ms. Boeglin then made a brief demonstration of how to make purchases using eBuy. Professor Kletzing suggested that the MFK box contain a drop-down list of favorites. Professor Plapp asked if Biochem Stores would be one of the suppliers in the system; Ms. Boeglin responded that no internal suppliers would be in the system. She also indicated that the university would soon cease to support the General Stores Multi-vendor Inventory for General Stores System (MIGS) and Stores Inventory for General Stores System (SIGS) because the technology involved is no longer efficient.

- *Budget Website Update (David Kieft, Office of the President)*

David Kieft commented that the Revenue Estimating Conference has recently predicted an additional 133 million dollar shortfall in the state budget for fiscal year 2010 than had been predicted by the Conference last December. The legislature is now working on proposing cuts of 12 ½ - 13% to the state budget. We still do not know what the effect of the federal stimulus plan will be on the state budget. The Iowa legislature currently is planning to submit its budget to the governor by April 8. The Budget webpage, <http://budget.uiowa.edu/>, has been live for about six weeks. There have been 14,473 individual IP sign-ins. The administration's goal for the website is to be as transparent as possible about the budget process. There have been 366 responses to the request for cost-cutting suggestions. These responses deal with furloughs and pay cuts, as well as other areas such as energy reductions. The suggestions are passed on to the chairs of the six budget task forces. Once a week, identifying information is removed from the email messages and the suggestions are then posted on the budget website. A Budget Communications Group, composed of administrators, faculty, staff, and students, has been formed to determine how best to convey budget information to the campus community. Mr. Kieft encouraged Senators to check the Budget webpage often to stay informed of the latest budget-related developments.

IV. From the Floor – There were no issues from the floor.

V. Announcements

- The online Faculty Council elections in the Colleges of Law and Medicine will begin Friday, March 27, at 8 am. Please vote and encourage your colleagues to vote. These are the only colleges with vacancies in the Faculty Council.
- The next Faculty Council meeting will be Tuesday, April 14, 3:30-5:15 pm, Penn State Room, 337 IMU.
- The next Faculty Senate meeting will be Tuesday, April 28, 3:30 – 5:15 pm, Senate Chamber, Old Capitol. The first half of the meeting will be the last meeting of the 2008-09 academic year. The second half of the meeting will be the organizational meeting for the 2009-10 academic year.
- The Iowa Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, April 4, in University Capitol Centre. President Sally Mason will be the speaker. There will be coffee at 9:30 am and President Mason will give her remarks at 10 am.
- The annual Tenure Workshop, sponsored by the AAUP, the Office of the Provost, and the Faculty Senate, will be held at the College of Dentistry on Wednesday, April 15, with a reception at 6:30 pm and the program beginning at 7 pm. Speakers include David Baldus (Law), Lois Cox (Ombudsperson), Colin Gordon (History), Jed Hand (Dentistry), Susan Johnson (Provost's Office), and Maria Lukas (General Counsel's Office). President O'Hara encouraged senior faculty to attend, as well.

VI. Executive Session

- *University Budget Issues (Provost Wallace Loh)*

Professor Morris moved and Professor Cohen seconded that the Senate move to executive session.

Professor Macfarland requested an explanation of the need to move to executive session. President O'Hara responded that the reason was much the same as at the last Faculty Senate meeting, when the Senate moved to executive session: to discuss the university budget situation more openly. Professor Macfarland commented that he did not feel that anything he heard during the last executive session was confidential. President O'Hara said it was up to the Senate whether or not to move to executive session. Professor Polumbaum stated that she opposed moving to executive session. She said she did not think her colleagues had elected her to debate issues in executive session. The Senate's discussion should be frank and open. If there are issues that cannot be discussed openly by the Senate, then they should not be discussed at all. Professor Hammond commented that discussion of some issues (for example, the closing of a college to save money) should be confidential, so that they do not receive wide publicity at a time when they are simply suggestions, not decisions.

Professor Cohen called the question. In a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Provost Loh spoke with Senators about the University's current budget situation.

Professor Cohen moved and Professor Mangum seconded that the Senate move to open session. The motion was approved.

VII. Adjournment – Professor Tachau moved and Professor Morris seconded that the meeting be adjourned. President O'Hara adjourned the meeting at 5:15 pm.