

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA FACULTY SENATE

Minutes

Tuesday, 22 September 1998

Senate Chamber, Old Capitol

Members Present: J. Andrews, J. Arora, Z. Ballas, M. Barrick, J. Bertolatus, S. Bishara, F. Boos, J. Carlson, P. Chang, C. Colvin, J. Cox, R. Curto, D. Davis, K. Ephgrave, G. Fisher, J. Hayes, P. Hitchon, J. Hoballah, R. Hohl, E. Irish, J. Jew, I. Levin, B. Levy, D. Liddell, E. Link, D. Manderscheid, K. Marra, L. Marshall, J. Menninger, K. Mescher, J. Moyers, V. Nair, G. Oden, M. Pincus, M. Raymond, J. Ringen, C. Ringen, E. Rivera, M. Rizzo, C. Roy, S. Rynes-Weller, D. Stephens, K. Tachau, B. Thompson, J. Tomkovicz, D. Wakefield, E. Wasserman, R. Weir, B. Wiley, R. Zbiek.

Members Absent (Excused): C. Berman, A. Bhattacharjee, L. Burmeister, K. Clark, M. David, M. Grover-McKay, S. Lawrence, G. Milavetz.

Members Absent: B. Butler, H. Diehl, Anne Dipardo, B. Doebbeling, G. El-Khoury, M. Emery, T. Judge, D. Klemm, J. Kline, A. McCarthy, A. Roberts, D. Rosenthal, C. Stanford, W. Stanford, M. Stone, M. Wall.

Guests: Lee Anna Clark, John Folkins, Jon Whitmore (Office of the Provost), Charles Drum (University Relations), Mary Mathew Wilson (Faculty Senate Office), Jared Smith (*Daily Iowan*), Brian White (University of Iowa Student Government).

- I. The meeting was called to order at 3:37 PM by President Wiley.
- II. Approval of minutes

It was moved by Prof. Oden, seconded by Prof. Anderson, that the minutes of the final meeting of the 1997-98 Faculty Senate and the minutes of the initial meeting of the 1998-99 Faculty Senate, both 28 April 1998, be approved. The motion passed without dissent.

President Wiley requested and was granted unanimous consent to change the agenda for the meeting. The revised agenda is reflected in these minutes.

- III. Announcements
 - A. There will be a discussion of a report on honorary degrees at the next meeting of the Faculty Senate.
 - B. The University Convocation will be held in Macbride Auditorium on 28 September 1998, 7:30 PM, with a reception in Iowa Hall to follow.
 - C. The Council on Teaching, at the suggestion of President Wiley, is in the

- process of considering how to reward outstanding teaching.
- D. At the September Board of Regents meeting, there will be presentations on teaching by L. Troyer, on the nTitle system for web-based instruction, two students will discuss their honors research projects and Prof. Alice Fulton will describe high participation by undergraduates in the University Honors Program.
 - E. The chairs of various Senate committees met recently and reported on numerous committee activities for the coming year.
 - F. The issue of transferability of CREF accounts on retirement is being considered this year and is likely to change.

IV. Committee Recommendations

Prof. Roy moved, seconded by Prof. Tachau, to approve the recommendations of the Committee on Elections and Committee on Committees:

- A. Anne Dipardo to replace Cathy Roller for the 1998-99 term as College of Education representative on the Faculty Senate.
- B. Diane Davis to replace Kathryn Henry for the 1998-99 term as College of Liberal Arts Group I representative on the Faculty Senate.
- C. Michael Flanigan to replace John Keller on the University Libraries Committee for the remainder of the 1998-99 term.
- D. Craig Porter and Douglas Wakefield for regular terms (1998-2001) on the Faculty Judicial Commission.
- E. Samir Bishara to replace Cathy Roller for the remainder of the 1998-2001 term on the Committee on Selection of Central Academic Officials.
- F. Russell Valentino to replace Kathryn Henry for the remainder of the 1998-2000 term on the Council on Teaching.

V. Reports and Discussion

- A. Provost Jon Whitmore presented a report on the past year's accomplishments and the current year's plans of the Office of the Provost. He first introduced Prof. Lee Anna Clark, Department of Psychology, newly appointed Associate Provost for Faculty. Provost Whitmore stressed the continuing cooperation between the Office of the Provost and academic departments and his enjoyment of a positive working relationship with the Faculty Senate leadership. Among last year's

projects were mentioned the accreditation review, likely to be passed with flying colors; technology upgrades for 13 classrooms; DEO training programs; and newly approved degree programs. During the current academic year there will be streamlining of departmental reviews; continuing upgrading of the technology in classrooms, coupled with new support staff; an expansion of the honors program; increased emphasis on programs for study abroad; a review of the clinical track faculty status and searching for a new Dean of Education. The Office of the Provost is preparing a new Strategic Plan for Distance Education to present to the Regents at their October meeting. Consultations with Deans for a new Strategic Plan for the University, to cover the period 2000-2005, are underway. The hope is to streamline the planning process and emphasize achievable goals. There will continue to be emphasis on interdisciplinary research and teaching. The 1995-96 report on these subjects will be revisited with the intention to expand efforts towards its goals. The hope is to ensure that faculty efforts in interdisciplinary research and teaching are appropriately rewarded and that there is seed money to begin effective implementation. Funding of these programs will occur via some reallocation and new resources from the legislature, sponsored programs, private sources and the proposed 5.2% increase in tuition rates. Provost Whitmore expressed optimism about the prospects for increased funding.

In response to a question by Prof. Tachau concerning the admirable aspirations in the current Strategic Plan, Provost Whitmore suggested the planning committee will decide which items to retain and what additional items to include in the new Strategic Plan. He emphasized the importance of focus and of making appropriate assumptions about the environment for the plan -- e.g., the size of the University and the state of Iowa's economy.

- B. Prof. Denise Vrchota, President of the Faculty Senate of Iowa State University presented some remarks on shared governance. This is the 11th year of their Senate, which is composed of ~80 faculty representing all departments and colleges. Among items on their agenda are matters of curriculum, conflict resolution and improved communication. The ISU Senate does much of its work via four Councils that deal with academic affairs, judiciary and appeals matters, governance, and faculty development and administrative relations. This last Council considers matters of faculty welfare and quality of life. There is a proposal for a fifth Council to consider budget and planning issues. Shared governance is the goal of the Faculty Senate. Although surveys suggest that 80% of ISU faculty believe their Faculty Senate has no influence, 60% had taken no opportunity to participate in governance issues. The past year was spent drafting a document on tenure and promotion. The Provost and faculty representatives are resolving controversies before passing the

document to the ISU President. Pres Vrchota spoke of the Senate agenda for this year: a Senate Strategic Plan, the improvement of communications between the Senate and DEOs and deans, a policy for post-tenure review, a university club, a review of the ISU Provost and revisions to the faculty handbook, among other issues.

- C. Prof. Suzanne McDevitt, President of the Faculty Senate at the University of Northern Iowa presented some remarks concerning their faculty governance. Their Senate is much smaller, 20 members. Shared governance issues at UNI include reducing hostility of faculty towards the Senate. The entire governance structure at UNI is now under review. Promotion and tenure issues are not part of the Senate's agenda because the faculty is unionized. The UNI senate agenda this year includes discussing "the quality of an educated person" project and distance education. There followed a brief question and answer session. In response to a question concerning unionized faculty, Pres. McDevitt responded that the strengths are equity across the campus -- for example, on grievance issues -- and the drawbacks are not always pushing for the highest quality. In answer to a question from the floor, Pres. McDevitt stated that faculty hostility to the Senate is related not to unionization but to personalities and processes of the Senate. After a question about the proposed 5.2% increase in undergraduate tuition, Pres. McDevitt noted that many students work too much now -- 20-30 hours or more per week -- and a tuition that would require them to work more should be looked at long and hard. In response to a query, she described the beginnings of the project on the "quality of an education person" at a Center for the Enhancement of Teaching. This effort was then melded into the UNI strategic plan and discussions are now being widened to include the whole campus.

- VI. There was no Old Business to discuss.
- VII. There was no additional New Business to discuss
- VIII. Prof. Nair moved adjournment, seconded by Prof. Anderson, at 4:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Menninger, Secretary