

NAU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes Monday, October 17, 2005

Please email corrections to the Senate Secretary: Richard.Lei@nau.edu

Call to order:

Senate President Marcus Ford called the meeting of the NAU Faculty Senate to order at 3:08 p.m. in the Student Union/Kaibab room.

Members Present: David Allen, Minnie Andrews, Nancy Barron, Virginia Blankenship, Kathy Bohan, Judith Cloud, Chuck Connell, Dan Cothran, Bill Culbertson, Jim Davis, Casey Donoho, Sally Doshier, Jack Dustman, Heidi Fogelberg, Marcus Ford, Bill Gibson, Tara Green, Liz Grobsmith, John Haeger, Emily Hill, Glenn Hookstra, Gae Johnson, Chris Lanterman, Chunhye Lee, Rich Lei, Loma Ishii, Dave McKell, Rich McNeill, Janet McShane, Larry Mohrweis, Sheila Nair, Cecilia Ojeda, Michael Ort, Lon Owen, Nancy Paxton, Mary Reid, Jon Reyhner, Reed Riner, Nando Schellen, Astrid Sheil, David Sherry, Marty Sommerness, and Marsha Yowell.

Members Excused: Mary Dereshiwsky, Blase Scarnati, Karen Sealander

Others Present: Louise Lockard, Susanna Maxwell, Karen Pugliesi, Kara Sharpell

Acceptance of Agenda/Minutes: Senate President Marcus Ford asked for an approval of the agenda. **A motion made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion Passed.** Senate President Marcus Ford asked for an approval of the minutes with the correction of a couple typos from the September 19, 2005 meeting. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the amended minutes. Motion Passed.**

Opening Comments - Senate President: President Marcus Ford said, "A week ago Saturday, I was part of the stage party for the Academic Achievement Day Ceremony. The ceremony included the performance of a sax quartet of NAU students, a short play written and acted by NAU students, a brief talk by Linda Shadiow from the College of Education, and an honoring of Henry Hooper for all his good work at NAU. It was, all and all, a lovely ceremony and I was glad to be a part of it.

However, I have also come to see it as a lost opportunity. There were about 500 people in the audience, most students and parents, and it occurred to me later that this was an opportunity to talk state the obvious---that this was their tax dollars at work. None the achievements that we were celebrating that day would have been possible with tax support and both the individuals who preformed, and the many who did not, are better off today because of the support of Arizona tax payer and our society as a whole is better off.

Students and parents have come to believe that they are paying for their education when it fact they are paying for only a part of their education. (I have a son at Grinnell College and tuition and room and board come to \$36,000 a year. In this case, it is probably correct to say that my wife and I are paying for his education.) Tax payers and future tax payers need to be reminded, over and over again, that they are getting something for their tax dollars, both as individuals and as members of the wider community.

After realizing that someone at this ceremony missed an important opportunity, it became painfully obvious to me that I have missed many similar opportunities. Over the years I have brought in a number of speakers to campus and in every case the lecture was "free" and open to the public. Of course it was not really free, the cost of the

lecture was paid for by tax dollars, and never did I mention to the audience, either before or after the lecture, that this was an example of their tax dollars at work.

On one level, almost an unconscious level, most people outside the university see public education as something of a benefit, but we within the university we do not do a sufficiently good job of repeatedly making the point that we are a public good. Several weeks ago, the MLS program, along with some other university groups, sponsored a lecture by Richard Heinberg, on Peak Oil. Three hundred and fifty people were there, about evenly split between university folks and the general public. Again, there was not mention that this lecture was only free and open to the public because we are a public institution supported by tax dollars.

If the public is not keenly aware of our worth, we can expect to see our funding diminish, which will make it more difficult to be of worth, which result in further cuts with the same results and so on as we spiral ever downwards. So, let me encourage you, as senators and as ex officio members of the senate, to take every possible opportunity to state the obvious, that much of what we do here at tax payers expense is of great benefit to the taxpayer. We have all come to believe, to one extent or another, that taxation is a form of robbery an the public institutions public transportation, public housing, public health, and public education, are a waste of money. Nothing could be further from the truth and we should say so as often as possible.--And so should our colleagues at ASU and the U of A. Thanks. “

Opening Comments - Vice President: Senate Vice President Marsha Yowell distributed a [faculty salary handout](#) from the ABOR meeting and reiterated that salaries are her number one priority. The salary handout compares NAU with the other universities. The Faculty Senate Budget Council is addressing the salary issue and could use some help. Marsha encouraged anyone who is interested in working on the salary issue to contact Chuck Connell, Mary Reid, or Rich Lei.

COFS Rewrite Update: Senator and COFS Rewrite committee member, Janet McShane gave an update on the COFS document. Janet said the committee has started meeting and have continued to meet. They started meeting as a large group and have broken up into two smaller groups. Tenure track and non-tenure track faculty classifications, and the grievance process are areas that are being analyzed. Janet is glad to report the committees are making headway. She said they are hoping to have something to present to the Senate at the November or December meeting.

Research and Graduate Education [RGE] Taskforce: Dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Chair of the RGE, Kathy Cruz-Urbe said the charge of the RGE committee is to look at research and graduate education at NAU and come up with a strategic direction. The committee started one year ago and was supposed to be finished on February 15, but the job turned out to be larger than expected. The committee has been working on understanding the current picture of NAU graduate programs. Their results were presented to the University Graduate Committee for feedback. They made changes based on the feedback received. Some key elements found were:

- NAU offers 49 masters programs, 9 doctorates, and 15 certificates.
- 4700 students are enrolled in masters programs, the majority is in education.
- 36% of students are full-time, 64% are part-time.
- 71% are off-campus students
- 75% of the off-campus students are part-time.

Ideas for future directions are enhancing current masters' degree programs, offering hybrid classes, international opportunities, new programming, 3 + 2 programs (combined undergraduate/masters), cooperative programs with ASU/U of A, and strengthening NAU doctoral programs.

Budget Council: At Large Senator Chuck Connell said the Budget Council consists of 3 members, Rich Lei, Mary Reid, and himself. The group is small and could use more help. So far the group has gathered information on salaries, some of this information is reflected on the [faculty salary handout](#) that Marsha distributed earlier. The Budget Council has several goals:

- Compare Faculty Senate salary recommendations with the outcome that has happened in the last year.
- Get answers from PAIR about the following:
 - What percent of the faculty as a whole received a market raise? What part of that was regular full time tenure and non-tenure faculty?
 - How many actual dollars were spent in making the actual adjustments? The Senate had a target number and we want to know how close the actual number is to it. How much of a percentage of the total dollars were spent?
 - What was the distribution? Was there a cap limit?
 - How did we measure up using CUPA guidelines in comparison with using PEER Institutions?

The group will meet with Karen Appleby and Pat Haeuser to discuss the issue further and obtain answers to these questions. The next meeting will be on October 24th and will meet in the Faculty Senate office at 3:30pm.

Comments – President: President Haeger said the Provost is in China and had a couple comments:

- Legal Council Search – the first candidate for the university legal council search, Mark Neumayr will be on campus October 12th. The next candidate Judith Yost Schmidt is here October 18th and F. Anne Zemek de Dominguez will be here October 26th – 28th. More information on these candidates is available on the President's website http://www4.nau.edu/president/communications/legal_council/candidates.asp
- President Haeger encouraged everyone to attend the President's Speaker Series co-sponsored by the Faculty Senate. Information on upcoming speakers is posted on the President's web page <http://www4.nau.edu/president/communications/speakers.asp>

Other Business/Announcements:

- Senate President Marcus Ford followed up on the Legal Council Search and said that the Senators can meet with the candidate tomorrow at 4:00pm in Babbitt room 206. The next candidate is scheduled for October 26th at 4:00pm in the same room.
- Chair of the Liberal Studies Program Review Committee, Senator Virginia Blankenship announced that there will an invite going out to faculty for an open forum being held on Monday, October 24th from 2:30pm to 3:30pm in the Student Union Sycamore Room. The committee is in their second semester of reviewing the liberal studies requirements. They are asking for input from faculty.

- At Large Senator Chuck Connell reported that the Freshman Year Taskforce has been meeting for two years now and is coming out with a report. This report will be distributed to faculty in the next few weeks. It has a number of recommendations. The primary one is creating the freshman year experience and a focus on leadership. Chuck encouraged everyone to look at the report and provide feedback.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m. The next meeting will be from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 14, 2005 in the Student Union/Kaibab room.