NAU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes Monday, February 20, 2006

Please email corrections to Julie.Hammond@nau.edu

Call to order:

Senate President Marcus Ford called the meeting of the NAU Faculty Senate to order at 3:04 p.m. in the Student Union/Kaibab room.

Members Present: David Allen, Syl Allred, T.S. Amer, Minnie Andrews, Nancy Barron, Virginia Blankenship, Kathy Bohan, Judith Cloud, Chuck Connell, Bill Culbertson, Jim Davis, Mary Dereshiwsky, Sally Doshier, Jack Dustman, Marcus Ford, Angela Golden, Tara Green, Liz Grobsmith, John Haeger, Glenn Hookstra, Loma Ishii, Gae Johnson, Chunhye Lee, Rich Lei, Louise Lockard, Dave McKell, Helaine McLain, Janet McShane, Larry Mohrweis, Sheila Nair, Michael Ort, Nancy Paxton, Jim Pinto, Mary Reid, Jon Reyhner, Reed Riner, Blase Scarnati, Nando Schellen, Astrid Sheil, David Sherry, Bill Stone, Marty Sommerness and Marsha Yowell.

Members Excused: Roger Bacon

Others Present: Karen Pugliesi and Sharon Young

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 from the January meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion Passed.

Opening Comments - Senate President:

- ➢ President Marcus Ford said we have a lot of work still to do this year. We have to act on the proposal from the Liberal Studies Review Committee before the academic year is over. There is also the COFS document, Bookstore Policy, Long Range and Strategic Planning reports, Senate Scholarship, Senate and committee elections and the Democracy Project left to do. Marcus said we will need at least one or two additional meetings to be able to address these issues. Marcus said he wants to call an additional Faculty Senate meeting for Monday, April 3rd and tentatively Monday, May 1st from 3-5pm.
- ➤ The Bookstore Policy http://www4.nau.edu/facultysenate/content/documents/Bookstorepolicy.pdf has been discussed and there seems to be support for it. The rationale is listed on the top portion of the handout and the proposal is listed at the end. Marcus asked everyone to look it over and to discuss it with their colleagues. Marcus would like to vote on it at the March 13th meeting if all goes well. He supports it and does not feel the policy is too restrictive.
- Marcus mentioned Senate bill #1331. The bill says if students are offended by course material that alternative material will be provided to meet objectives of the course. Marcus said the other two universities are opposed to it and so are the community colleges.
- ➤ The American Democracy Project is overseen by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. It seeks to make engaged and informed citizenship of one of the goals of undergraduate education. They focus on several issues including importance of juries and public policy on public land issues. Marcus supports this project because it will encourage community

- participation and problem solving. George Mehaffy will speak on the project this April 3rd.
- Money continues to trickle in for the Faculty Senate Legal Fund. So far, we have almost \$400. Marcus strongly encouraged everyone to support this endeavor. Marcus feels it is risky to sign off on anything without having a lawyer review it beforehand. Checks can be made out to the Faculty Senate and can be sent to the Faculty Senate office at PO Box 6038. Marcus said he would send out another email to the faculty to request funds.

<u>Opening Comments - Senate Vice- President</u>: Vice-President Marsha Yowell said she attended the ABOR meeting on February 2 and 3. There was a report on post-tenure review that she would like to share with anyone who is interested.

<u>Legislature Update</u>: President Haeger introduced Christy Farley and said she is one of the people who represents the university and spends most of her time off campus rather than on. Her principal responsibility is directing government and legislative relations. She also looks after our federal agenda and has a staff that works with her. Christy is an NAU Alumni, a one-time Flagstaff resident, now lives in Phoenix, and she spent a number of years in Governor Hull's office. She was the state director of the Board of Education before coming to NAU.

Christy commented on some of the issues that are going on. Last year the legislature decided to establish a Higher Education Legislative Committee [HELC] http://www.azleg.state.az.us/CommitteeInfo.asp?Committee ID=9. Before that, the focus was on K-12 education. Approximately 70 bills have been introduced that may affect activities going on at higher education institutions around the state. Christy commented on Senate bill 1331

http://www.azleg.state.az.us/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill Number=SB1331 that asks that students who are personally offended by coursework are provided with material alternatives. Christy said she would not worry about it unless it drums up strength. More importantly, the budget hearings are taking place in the next two days. Christy said she likes to hear favorable press when these hearings are taking place. When asked what NAU faculty can do to help. Christy responded that faculty can help by 1) Being informed, 2) Talk positively about NAU, and 3) Appreciate what has happened. Christy said the chair of the HELC is Linda Gray, Senate representative http://www.azleg.state.az.us/MembersPage.asp?Member_ID=87 who is from the Northwest Valley. The House representative for the HELC is Laura Knaperek. http://www.azleg.state.az.us/MembersPage.asp?Member_ID=27. To access information on any of the bills, go to: http://www.azleg.state.az.us/Bills.asp

<u>Assessment By-Laws</u>: Senator Bill Culbertson represented the Assessment committee and proposed the following changes:

http://www4.nau.edu/facultysenate/content/documents/AssessmentPropRev_2006_02.p

<u>df</u>. A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed change to section 3 of the Assessment committee by-laws with an amendment to the proposal language. Motion Passed.

Instead of one full-time faculty representative from each college/school, it will read as follows:

Two full-time faculty members from each of the following academic units:

- College of Engineering and Natural Sciences
- College of Arts and Letters

- Consortium of Professional Schools
- College of Business Administration
- College of Education
- College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

<u>Budget Council</u>: Chuck Connell said the council met with the PAIR office to discuss the distribution of the 2.5% increase based on merit. The amount that will be distributed is not known yet. This is in addition to the \$1650 increase that all NAU full-time employees will get at the end of March. Chuck said they would like to adhere to the recommendation the Budget Council made last year in the Faculty Salary Plan. Chuck asked for suggestions or questions from the Senate and there were none.

<u>COFS Rewrite Update</u>: Four documents summarizing proposed changes were distributed to all faculty for review prior to this meeting

- 1. COFS summary of changes
- 2. COFS nontenure track
- 3. COFS ombuds/informal resolution
- 4. COFS sabbatical leave

Chuck reported that his sub-committee is working on appendix A of the document which is the appeals process, grievance process, and sections 7.6, 7.7, and 7.8. Chuck said they would like to get a generalized approval from the Senate on these documents so that they can proceed forward. Chuck reminded the Senate that the final approval will be after legal counsel has reviewed the document.

Janet McShane reported that her sub-committee is working on sections 7.4 and 7.5 which have to do with faculty evaluations. Janet said they are finding that it is hard to navigate and locate specific information within the document. They are working on organizing the document to alleviate this problem. More documents will be disseminated to faculty for review prior to the March 13 meeting. Janet asked everyone to please review these so that those changes can be discussed at the next meeting.

Chuck asked the Senate if there were any further recommendations on the material presented. Chuck said it would be helpful to know that they are moving in the right direction because when they present the final document; there will be a lot to read. If the document can be approved in increments, this process will be much easier.

Senator Helaine Mclain said that the Management Team of the School of Art prepared a statement stating "We believe the endorsement and adoption of the classification of Professor of Practice to be an inappropriate action of the faculty of this university. Further to not require an appropriate degree by level and kind does a disservice to the academy." Provost Grobsmith commented that the Professor of Practice is not a proposal that is before ABOR. Over a year ago, that rank was approved by the ABOR as an option for universities to use should they have a professional who is a practicing professional in the community whom they want to come in and teach. A unit is not obligated to use this title. The Provost's office does not determine the ranks of faculty that a unit hires; the ranks are individualized to the unit.

Liberal Studies Review Committee: The committee, Virginia Blankenship, Terry Blows, Kit Hensley, Blase Scarnati, Chuck Connell, JeanAnn Foley and Dean Pielstick presented proposed changes in a PowerPoint presentation http://www4.nau.edu/facultysenate/content/documents/lschanges%20REV4.ppt
Chuck asked for comments, suggestions and questions. A comment was made by Senator Michael Ort that the there was no science included in the mission and principles. Students need to gain a deeper understanding of the natural world and this should be clearly stated. Chuck asked him to submit his suggestions on changing the language to include science in the mission and principles. Someone commented that the word citizenship should be removed from the mission statement. Chuck said that if someone does not agree with the language to please submit suggestions on how they feel the language should read so that the committee can consider it.

A question was asked, what is technology literacy? Technological literacy is a broad

A question was asked, what is technology literacy? Technological literacy is a broad understanding of the human-designed world and our role in it. It is an essential quality for all people who live in the increasingly technology-driven 21st century. Technology literacy is also about accessing information and using it ethically. It also includes global communication. Comments about the Liberal Studies Review proposed changes are welcome and should be sent to Virginia.Blankenship@nau.edu.

Comments from the President:

On Wednesday afternoon, Robert Zemsky, Chair of The Learning Alliance for Higher Education will speak in Ashurst Auditorium at 3:30 p.m.

Comments from the Provost:

➤ Environmental Studies proposal is on the ABOR agenda for March.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m. The next meeting will be from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 13, 2006 in the Student Union/Kaibab room.