

NAU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes Monday, June 5, 2006

Please email corrections to Julie.Hammond@nau.edu

Call to order:

President Marsha Yowell called the meeting of the NAU Faculty Senate to order at 3:02 p.m. in the Pattea Room.

Members Present: Minnie Andrews, Roger Bacon, Virginia Blankenship, Chuck Connell, Bill Culbertson, Sally Doshier, Liz Grobsmith, John Haeger, Chunhye Lee, Nancy Paxton, Jim Pinto, Jon Reyhner, Reed Riner, Blase Scarnati and Marsha Yowell.

Others Present: David Bousquet, K. Laurie Dickson, Dayle Hardy-Short, Karen Pugliesi, Marty Sommerness, and Heidi Wayment

Acceptance of Agenda/Minutes: President Marsha Yowell asked for an approval of the agenda. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion Passed.** President Marsha Yowell asked for an approval of the minutes from the May 8th meeting. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion Passed.**

Opening Comments: President Marsha Yowell welcomed and thanked everyone for attending and participating in the summer Senate. Vice President Blase Scarnati said he looked forward to working with everyone and establishing some priorities this summer.

Budget/Salaries: Senator Chuck Connell said there is some concern about salaries because of the action taken in the legislature. He is trying to get additional information about the status of salaries of faculty who were promoted. The issue is that at this time, the contracts do not reflect an attempt to match the 85th percentile in their comparative salaries. Chuck said it is not clear as to what the exact nature of the problem is and would like some clarification. The question is whether these salaries will be adjusted before the contracts begin in fall. Chuck said he will report to the Senate when he receives more information.

Marsha said she had the pleasure of attending the leadership retreat and some budget matters were talked about there. She asked President Haeger if he would like to address those matters at this meeting.

President Haeger said that the goal of the university is to be at 85% of the CUPA average. He said we have two issues related to the goal. One is faculty promoted this year. President Haeger plans to solve this issue sooner rather than later by bringing that faculty to near the 85% of CUPA as determined last year. Seventeen full and associate professors are affected. The compression created within rank is the other issue. They plan to try and have the promotion issue fixed by the middle of the fall semester for resolution in January. The broader issue is that the university can commit to the goal of 85% of CUPA. However, if we have an enrollment decline and the state does not give us any money, there is not any way the university could possibly do this. The university has to maintain some budget flexibility.

Marsha commented her number one priority is salaries for faculty and staff. Marsha said she believes that when faculty and staff are not making enough to live on, it hurts the university. We lose good people and the morale goes down for those who stay. She thanked President Haeger for the raises distributed to faculty and staff last year but she does not feel that we can afford to say it just depends on the legislature. Salaries need to be an internal priority. Marsha asked President Haeger is there has been discussion about a cost of living adjustment [COLA] for the Flagstaff area. The President answered that he was not aware of any COLA discussions for Flagstaff. He said that ABOR and the Arizona legislature believe strongly in awarding salaries based on merit.

Communication: Marsha said that she and Blase have met and talked about communication within the Senate. Marsha said that she wanted to establish office hours for the Senate. Marsha said that she or Blase would like to be available to faculty during scheduled hours once or twice a week. Blase spoke about the new web site that is being put together using the content management system. The system is easy to update and maintain and is consistent with the rest of the university's web pages. Blase said the Senate needs to utilize the web site as a one-stop-shop for faculty so that we can collate and bring together links for all the different things faculty would need. Blase would like to discuss this communication issue and ideas at greater length this summer.

Marsha added that she would like to meet regularly with classified staff, ASNAU and graduate students to talk about the university and the issues that face us. Marsha said the exchange of dialogue would be beneficial to all of us. Marsha said it is important for the Arizona Faculties Council [AFC] to interact and talk as much as possible. Marsha encouraged members of the FSEC to attend AFC meeting when they can. ABOR will be meeting at NAU on June 22 and 23. Marsha encouraged everyone to attend.

FS Committees and Councils: Marsha said it has been challenging to get Senate councils and committees fully staffed. Only a couple of the councils and committee have reported their progress to the Senate. A suggestion was made to eliminate the councils and appoint ad hoc as needed. Marsha said we need to figure out how to be supportive of the councils and committees and what can we do to make sure they are staffed. They need to report and be held accountable if they are delegated a charge. Blase said that the problem with ad hoc committees is that they dissipate after their charge is completed and expertise may be lost. Each council is composed of three elected senators and can add two additional staff if needed that does not have to be senators. This issue will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Liberal Studies Implementation: Vice President Blase Scarnati reported that on Thursday, May 25, 2006 a Liberal Studies Implementation Work Group consisting of Jeff Berglund (Chair, Liberal Studies Committee), Dayle Hardy-Short (Chair, University Curriculum Committee), Blase Scarnati (Vice President, Faculty Senate), Karen Pugliesi (Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies), and Ron Pitt (Associate Provost for Academic Administration) met to discuss issues generated by the Liberal Studies reforms. It was agreed by all that Liberal Studies reforms will be effective fall 2007 (one year from this Fall 2006 semester), including the first of the freshman Seminar pilot sections. Additionally, the Liberal Studies Committee has since voted

in summer session for a one year moratorium on new Liberal Studies course proposals until Fall 2007 (Junior Level Writing and Senior Capstone courses will continued to be reviewed without interruption) The following issues will be addressed in 2006-07 by

Ron Pitt and his office

- Begin programming changes concerning the conflation of the Science/Applied Science Distribution Blocks into a single Science Distribution Block
- Begin programming changes to alter the current sliding scale of credit hours per Distribution Block to the fixed credit hours per Block as adopted in the reforms

Liberal Studies Committee and Karen Pugliesi

- Develop definitions and student learning outcomes for Skills
 - Plan for the implementation and review of syllabi concerning Skills
 - change from nine Skills to five Skills
 - change from multiple Skills per course to one Skill per course
- Develop student learning outcomes for Distribution Blocks
 - Plan for the implementation and review of syllabi by Distribution Block
 - Likely done one Block at a time
 - At all cost will avoid a call for any mass resubmissions or re-reviews
- Freshman Seminar
 - Pilot in Fall 2007 (currently working on a budget for the pilot offerings)
 - 15 sections
 - Peer/student mentors
 - Funding to promote seminar to students
 - Funding for faculty course development and/or overload stipends
 - Submit new course proposals and program change forms to the University Curriculum Committee
 - Recruit a Freshman Seminar Coordinator
- Revise Assessment Plan for the Liberal Studies Program
 - Tom Paradis, Director of Office of Academic Assessment, will work directly with the Liberal Studies Committee on Assessment Plan development and revisions

University Curriculum Committee

- Act on Freshman Seminar new course proposals and program change forms

Comments from President Haeger: NAU President Haeger had several comments:

- The next ABOR meeting will be held at NAU on June 22. The retreat is June 23rd. This will be Pete Likens last meeting as university President.
- NAU will issue a request for proposal [RFP] for an outside firm to come in and operate the NAU Bookstore. The President said this is a common business practice and about 51% of universities outsource their bookstore. Food service is another business on campus that they have outsourced. The President said that the bookstore is a very complicated and sophisticated business. The bookstore has expanded and professionals are better equipped to run it. Marty Sommerness asked about the responsiveness to complaints. Marty also uses a course pack and custom books for his courses and was concerned about what kind of limitations may be put into place if another vendor runs the bookstore. If

anyone has additional concerns or comments, they can contact David.
Bousquet@nau.edu.

- Vice President David Bousquet reported that the RFP for the bookstore will be out by the end of June and bids would tentatively be due at the end of July. If everything goes smoothly they hope to award the contract by October 1, 2006. A vendor would be in place by the beginning of the spring 2007 semester. Senator T.S. Amer is the faculty representative for the RFP committee. Chuck asked about the parameters used in screening potential vendors. David said that the RFP is currently being written by a group. The conditions and requirements have not been articulated. The bookstore expects to maintain service to faculty, staff, and students. Distance students should see an improvement in the service they receive. Clothing, computers, art and office supplies will still be offered by the bookstore. Comments about the bookstore may be sent to David.Bousquet@nau.edu.
- The lease has been signed with Drury Southwest. The plan is that they will break ground for the conference center sometime between August 15 and no later than October 1st. The lease is 50 years with two renewals possible. Drury will build a 150-room hotel on north campus. The architectural design will be similar to that of the historic design of north campus. Drury will have some parking spaces outside. The majority of the parking will be inside the parking garage that will be built adjacent to the hotel. One of the conditions of the lease is that Drury will not break ground unless NAU breaks ground shortly thereafter or before. The President said north campus will be a mess due to the construction. They plan to add more parking since the north campus lot will be closed. Parking services will determine the parking arrangements during this time.
- A study of allied health sciences as a potential area for NAU to expand its programming is taking place.

Comments from Provost Grobsmith:

- The Provost talked about Senate Bill 1331 and the offensive language issue. The President is expected to report on this issue at the September ABOR meeting as far as how the university will handle situations where a student may find course material difficult or problematic. The Provost said the U of A has a piece in their syllabus policy that they adopted in May 2005 that says: “13. Notification, if the instructor believes necessary, warning students that some course content may be deemed offensive by some students. The link to the policy is at: <http://policy.web.arizona.edu/syllabus>. The deans want to create a positive statement about how we view education and how there are a variety of things that may upset everyone when you go to college. The Provost said she will share what the deans come up with. The chairs have informed the Provost that they prefer to not to come with a statement or participant in this process. She said we will have come up with something because the Board is expecting a report in September. Marsha said if anyone has comments on this issue to email her at: Marsha.Yowell@nau.edu.
- The Provost and Chuck Connell attended an LCE video conference to talk about the nature of the grants proposal for Learner Centered Education for next year. The Board has come up with an idea of creating the framework by which the grants program would be ruled out. The Provost is in support of George Davis’s suggestion of having the LCE grants revolve around a theme. George suggested that universities have issues they are already working on to improve freshman

learning, retention, etc. and provide grants and support the faculty for trying new things, devices and techniques to increase student learning and outcomes associated therein. The board is interested in having a grant program that is based on Carol Twigg's research: <http://www.thencat.org/whoweare.html>. The Provost said this model does not quite fit with NAU's goals. The grants are from the Proposition 301 monies which the Board oversees.

- The Provost said they went over the proposed changes of the COFS document with the President and the university attorney. Franklin Hoover will be reviewing the document in detail. The Provost said her goal is to come to the Senate in the fall with a satisfactory document. What the Senate does with it is their prerogative.
- There has been recent discussion about the idea of creating a teaching academy. Membership would be selective and teaching related. The Provost will present a draft to the Senate when they get to that point.
- There will be a telephone conference tomorrow on the Seven Revolutions Project: http://7revs.csis.org/sevenrevs_content.html in the Provost's office at 1:00pm. NAU is considering participating in a pilot program, she would like to see the Senate, and Liberal Studies Committee involved.
- There was a program review of the B.A.I.L.S. There is a recommendation to change the name to a Bachelor of Arts (or Science) in Interdisciplinary Studies. This will be discussed further in the fall when the University Curriculum Committee is back. The recommendations will be taken to the deans on Wednesday and then to the chairs, then to the Senate.

Announcements and Future Agenda Items:

- David Bousquet said the size of the freshman class is 24% up over last year but we still have a way to go before the fall starts. Orientation is taking place right now. They are still busy recruiting transfer students, they still have 275 more to recruit and enroll. They are putting in long hours to get and keep the enrollment up. David said there is a healthy increase in out-of-state enrollment as well. McKay Village is scheduled to open this fall. David said if anyone wants a tour to let him know. There will be 444 students living in McKay Village. The goal was to bring some off campus students back to on campus. David thanked everyone for their help in this process. The Provost added that they have been working with the deans and chairs to make sure that where there are issues or problems with class availability and sections, that they are committed to finding the resources to make that happen. Karen Pugliesi has been working on making sure all students are accommodated.
- Marsha said she is working on finding a lawyer to review the COFS document. She thinks she may have found an attorney that will do it for the money that has been raised so far.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m. The next meeting will be from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Monday, July 10, 2006 in the Pattea Room in the Blome Building.