NAU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes Monday, September 19, 2005

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 3:08 p.m. in the Student Union/Kaibab room.

Members Present: David Allen, Syl Allred, Minnie Andrews, Nancy Barron, Kathy Bohan, Judith Cloud, Dan Cothran, Bill Culbertson, Jim Davis, Mary Dereshiwsky, Casey Donoho, Sally Doshier, Heidi Fogelberg, Marcus Ford, Bill Gibson, Angela Golden, Tara Green, Liz Grobsmith, John Haeger, Kelley Hays-Gilpin, Emily Hill, Glenn Hookstra, Gae Johnson, Judith Cloud, Chris Lanterman, Chunhye Lee, Rich Lei, Loma Ishii, Dave McKell, Sheila Nair, Rich McNeill, Janet McShane, Larry Mohrweis, Michael Ort, Lon Owen, Nancy Paxton, Mary Reid, Jon Reyhner, Blase Scarnati, Nando Schellen, Karen Sealander, David Sherry, Marty Sommerness, and Marsha Yowell.

Members Excused: Virginia Blankenship, Chuck Connell

Others Present: Susanna Maxwell, Karen Pugliesi, Kara Sharpell

Acceptance of Agenda/Minutes: Senate President Marcus Ford said the agenda has been revised. Agenda item 4 is cancelled and there is a change to the order of items. President Ford asked for an approval of the amended agenda. A motion made and seconded to approve the amended agenda. Motion Passed. Senate President Marcus Ford asked for an approval of the minutes from the May 2, 2005 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion Passed.

<u>Opening Comments - Senate President</u>: President Marcus Ford said, "Welcome back. I hope that you had an enjoyable break over the summer and that you are all well rested and ready to go. The Faculty Senate is an important body and we have work to do. We must play a role in shaping the university in times of great challenges and change. As you all know, Arizona is growing rapidly and the state legislature have been looking at various ways to meet the demand for higher education in the state.

As President of the Senate, I attend the ABOR meetings; sit on the President's cabinet and on the Strategic Planning Council as your representative. I would like to share with you my perception of what is going on at the statewide level. Although NAU last year successfully fought the battle of being labeled a "second tier" institution, it remains at fact that it lies between ASU and U of A, on the one hand, and the community colleges on the other. This position in the middle means that NAU is currently fighting on two fronts. On the one hand, we are engaged in a battle with the community colleges, and on the other hand, we are engaged in a battle with ASU and U of A. The battle with the community colleges focuses on their desire to become a four-year degree granting institutions. They have a very cost effective model. They do no research, have heavy teaching loads, employ many part timers with no benefits, have limited athletic programs, and are located in many of the fastest growing parts of the state. In my estimation, overall, the quality of educational experience at these institutions is vastly inferior to the educational experience here at NAU, but in terms of cost effectiveness, we cannot successfully compete and it is difficult, politically, to make a qualitative argument. On the other hand, it is very difficult for us to compete, overall, with ASU and U of A, because of their size, political power, and location. They are in a much better position that we are to buy national merit scholars, Nobel laureates, research

opportunities, and so on. Insofar as the criteria used for ranking universities often include factors such as these, it will be all impossible for us to compete with these institutions on an equal basis. Our challenge, then, is to define ourselves in a way that we are neither an inferior version of ASU and U of A, or a grandiose community college, but rather something different than both and just as important for the good of the state. This is a challenge that our administration is grabbling with. Of course we are different from ASU and U of A by our history and location and our size, and we must make the most of these differences, but we can, and I would argue should be, different in other respects as well. One difference that I support is in terms of our commitment to a different kind of education, one that includes the notion of responsible and engaged citizenship. The American Association of State Colleges and Universities [ASSCU] has a program that I endorse, the American Democracy Project that encourages the development of engaged citizenship as part of the special responsibility of state universities. The community colleges and the University of Phoenix see themselves primarily terms of work force development ---which is important, but they do not understand their mission as developing citizens. Research universities such as ASU and U of A, see their primary mission in terms of scholarship and, in a different way, economic development, but again, not in terms of developing engaged citizens. By adopting this as a central part of our mission and self-understanding, we will differentiate ourselves from the other institutions of higher education in the state, and we will be serving an unmet need of the state. What would it mean for us to take citizenship seriously? What would it mean in terms of our curriculum? What would it mean in terms of how we function as an institution? The answer to these questions are, I submit, not obvious, but they are worthy of our attention. Presumably the same curriculum that is designed for work-force development will not lead to engaged citizenship, nor a curriculum geared to scholarship and economic development. I would like to suggest that, at least in terms of our liberal studies requirements; we ask the question, how to enable students to become informed and engaged citizens. There has been talk of reinstituting some of kind of freshman seminar-not the old UC 10 1 but something new. If this new program had citizenship as its focus, I would support it and, I would argue, so should the faculty senate and the rest of the faculty. To my mind, such a program would go a long way to defining who we are via the community colleges and our sister institutions to the south. I do not think this is the only thing we can and should do, but it seems to me to be a first step. Perhaps we should also erect statues on campus to honor the women and men who have strengthened and defended our democracy. The First Amendment Plaza and the statue honoring the Navajo Code Talkers are a good beginning, but why not erect a statue to honor Cesar Chavez, Martin Luther Jr., and Mother Jones? The campus is also a part of the curriculum and a reflection of our values and commitments. Again, welcome back. We live in exciting times and we have a responsibility to serve the citizens of the state of Arizona. Too often we have understood this service in strictly economic terms, or we have argued that we serve the state in terms of academic research, no matter how arcane and enriching the inner lives of its citizens. These are important endeavors, but a different way to serve the state, one that is currently often overlooked, is by encouraging and developing thoughtful, engaged, and informed citizens. If our democracy falters, the health of our economy is of little importance. This is and idea we can and should help the public to understand. Investing in democracy will reap untold benefits. Part of this year will also be devoted to other topics, such a faculty salary increases. Being 15% below average is not acceptable, though it is better than being 20% below average. We will also work to update the faculty handbook and the COFS document, reduce the cost of textbook, and other issues. But, I would contend, we need to keep the big picture in view as we pay attention to these other matters. I look forward to working with you, and with our administration, and to a productive year, thank you".

<u>Opening Comments - Vice President</u>: Senate Vice President Marsha Yowell welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. She is concerned with three issues. She encouraged anyone interested in working with her on these issues to please contact her.

- 1. Salary 85% of CUPA sounds great, but it is still 15% below average.
- 2. Governance- the faculty needs to look at and feel more comfortable with COFS and the faculty handbook.
- 3. Identity We need to define what NAU is and she would like to work with administration to accomplish this.

Alternative Contribution Plans: President Ford said the Faculty Senate Executive Committee is supportive of alternative contribution plans and introduced Molly Williams, Vice President of University Advancement to speak about her department's perspective on the plans. Ms. Williams commented that she felt it would be a good direction for the university to take. It would open the campaign and one of the goals of her department is to enhance the philanthropic culture on our campus. One way to do that is to give people the opportunity to choose where they lend their support. She would love it if everyone gave to the NAU foundation in support of some program at NAU. People who give usually give to more than one source. She supports the idea and the concept, but wants folks to realize that for every action, there is a reaction. There are people that will be impacted, for instance, payroll. We need to study and consider what these impacts may be.

Solange Whitehead, Director of the Environmental Fund of Arizona distributed 2 handouts:

- 1. Combined Federal Campaign
- 2. Adding Environmental Fund for Arizona (EFA) Charities to NAU's Payroll Deduction Campaign

Solange spoke about adding more charity contribution choices for NAU employees. The Governor recently opened up contribution choices to Arizona State employees. Currently, the only choice available to NAU employees is the United Way of America which focuses more on cash contributions. The Environmental Fund of Arizona is an action-oriented charity that encourages involvement

<u>Textbook Costs</u>: Senate President Marcus Ford said that students pay an average of \$500-\$600 a year. NAU student Tom Wahl spoke about the high price of textbooks and the Arizona Student's Association [ASA] Textbook Rip-off Campaign. Tom presented a handout with facts about textbook prices, <u>ASA Textbook Rip Off Campaign</u>. A web site that will allow students to exchange used textbooks has been launched, the address is http://www.campusbookswap.com/index.asp. Tom is asking the Senate to consider a resolution to support the campaign.

The Senate discussed various ways of addressing the textbook issue. One faculty member said she does not buy new editions until she sees the changes made from the previous version. Many times these changes are minimal. Other faculty said they have

made use of Cline Library's electronic reserves and the Nursing department has been proactive in using the same textbook for more than one course.

A motion was made that the textbook issue be charged to the Senate's Council on Academic Standards, Curricula and Student Life. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Co-Sponsorship of the President's Lecture Series: The President's Speakers Series brings experts to NAU to address 'changing landscapes in higher education.' The current schedule of speakers can be accessed at http://www4.nau.edu/president/communications/speakers.asp. President Ford welcomes the speakers and encouraged everyone to attend. He felt it would be a good idea if the Faculty Senate co-sponsored the series with the Administration. There is no monetary exchange or endorsement from the Senate. A motion was made that the Faculty Senate co-sponsor the President's speaker series this year. Motion was seconded. Motion passed. President Haeger commented that he wants to bring these people to campus to see and expose them to NAU. A small fee will paid to the speaker and each event will be followed by a reception. President Haeger welcomed the support from the Senate asks they endorse the academic quality of these presentations.

<u>COFS Rewrite Update</u>: Senator and COFS Rewrite committee member, Janet McShane gave an update on the COFS document. The full committee has met twice so far. Two sub-committees have been formed and are looking at the grievance procedure and the role of non-tenure track faculty. They are comparing titles and duties to peer institutions. The current members are: Susanna Maxwell, Judy Sellers, Nancy Riggs, Catherine Medina, Steven Barger, Jason BeDuhn, Jim Morgan, Cindy Kosso, Janet McShane and Chuck Connell.

<u>Parliamentarian/Committee Openings</u>: Parliamentarian Roger Bacon is out on sabbatical for the fall 2005 semester and a replacement is needed. There is also a need for Senate representation on the Lumberjack Publication and ITS Information Security committees. Senator Gae Johnson self-nominated herself to fill in this semester as Parliamentarian. Senator Nando Schellen volunteered for the Lumberjack Publication committee and Senator Heidi Fogelberg volunteered for the ITS Information Security committee.

<u>Comments – President</u>: President Haeger had several comments:

- ➤ A search for a new Vice President for Administration and Finance is underway. This significant position and there is Senate representation on the search committee.
- Legal affairs will be handled differently. NAU legal needs have expanded. The Request for Proposal [RFP] process will be used to identify the legal firms that NAU will utilize for different issues. In-house legal council will be hired also.
- One of the biggest challenges is that ABOR has asked each of the universities to respond in a detailed fashion regarding the redesign. NAU needs a distinction from other schools. There will be a surge of students, approximately 180,000, in the next 4 or 5 years. The belief is that the 3 universities are not enough to handle this influx. As the baccalaureate degree gains in value, the public will become more interested in education. President Haeger said NAU can

distinguish itself by providing baccalaureate education in an accessible and affordable way in a whole variety of different formats. He said we need to make some powerful statements on what we intend to do. NAU intends to promote a strong research mission and graduate programming. President Haeger plans to ask the ABOR commission to consider allowing NAU to begin to build a campus presence in other areas of the state. U of A and ASU have no interest in a multicampus design. If NAU does not do this, someone else will. Its not about offering baccalaureate degrees, its about graduating students with baccalaureate degrees

➤ September 28, 29, and 30 the Arizona Board of Regents will be meeting in Flagstaff. He will be doing presentations both on the 29th and 30th relating to the redesign.

Comments – Provost:

- ➤ The College of Arts and Letters dean search has been launched. Laura Huenneke will chair the search and the committee had been formed. The position will be in the chronicle sometime in October. The goal is to have a hire by the July 1st. Susan Fitzmaurice will be here through this fall semester and Mike Malone has been named interim dean for the spring 2006 semester.
- ➤ The University Program Review process has been changed. The requirement of having a community member and alumni on every single program review is no longer required.
- On the international front, Provost Grobsmith suggested the Senate invite Steve Wright to come to a Faculty Senate to discuss topics related to creating a diverse and global campus.
- ▶ Provost Grobsmith said the Chinese students are here and are attending classes. There were 17 students expected and all came. Eleven of them are in regular classes and 6 of them are in the program for intensive English. They will be traveling back to China in the middle of October. They expect to add more partners. Last year they had 20 partners, now there are 32. There are 14 faculty Chinese faculty here currently. One of them is teaching Chinese and those classes are full. They are looking to add a second year Chinese class next year. Additionally, 20 students from Saudi Arabia will attend NAU in the spring.
- NAU is going to be pursuing accreditation from National Council to Accredit Teacher Education in the next few years
- The Provost attended a talk by Mark Taylor about Learner Centered Education Grants. She was inspired by what he said and felt that NAU needs to promise students that they will get an extraordinary education. Supplemental instruction is a piece that will provide mentors, GA's to support students taking difficult courses. Supplemental instruction has been highly successful. Provost Grobsmith also said that advisors and support programs will be added in the departmental units in order to better assist upper division-majors.
- American Association of State Colleges and Universities did a study that looks at graduation rates. The message is student-centered campuses are very successful. Provost Grobsmith says we have a lot of work to do to accomplish this.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m. The next meeting will be from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 17, 2005 in the Student Union/Kaibab room.