Faculty Senate Minutes

June 3, 2013

SU 313 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

**Present:** Amy Belcastro, Deborah Brown, Todd Carney, Dave Carter, Prakash Chenjeri, Kate Cleland-Sipfle, Sherry Ettlich, Doug Gentry, Fredna Grimland, Kevin Sahr, Byron Marlowe, Rich May, Mary Russell-Miller, Gerry McCain, Kasey Mohammad, John Richards, Larry Shrewsbury, Robin Strangfeld, Jamie Vener, Jody Waters.

**Absent:** Steve Jessup, Ellen Siem, John King.

**Guests:** Mary Cullinan**,** James Klein, Pat Acklin, Alissa Arp, Paul Adalian, Sue Walsh, Connie Anderson-Cohoon, Lee Ayers, Dennis Jablonski, Brad Christ.

**The meeting was called to order at 4:02p.m.**

**Approval of minutes from May 13:**

**Discussion:**

* Sahr explained his concern that Senate approved the House Seminar courses but did not approve the House programs in general. What does it mean that we have approved all the courses?
* Acklin explained that deadline for curriculum and catalog changes to be submitted to the Provost’s office is July, not October, so time was an issue. Courses came to CC without a new program proposal. The committee had concerns about the sophomore and junior year plans, so the new proposal that we will see in fall will have additional detail. Curriculum Committee approved and recommended that individual courses rather than the entire program be considered for approval in Senate, thus, all Houses will use the approved “shell” for their iteration of HSem and the program changes will be considered at a later time. The USem model is already in place. We don’t know what the next years will hold.
* Sahr wonders why we are introducing new Houses if we aren’t sure the current Houses work.
* Ettlich clarified that all we approved in minutes from last meeting was that the HSem model is a suitable substitution for USem.
* Ayers explained that she wanted to bring forward everything that University Studies has worked on

Carter moved that the minutes from May 13 be approved, and Russell-Miller seconded. The vote passed with all in favor, none opposed. Richards and Chenjeri abstained.

**Announcements**

Waters announced that one final Senate meeting will be held on June 13 at 10:30. This special meeting will seat new Senators, conduct elections for officers, and fill committee seats.

**Comments from President Cullinan**

* President Cullinan announced that the 7:30 AM legislative meeting scheduled for Tuesday is cancelled because Liz Shelby was called to Salem this afternoon. Governance issues are still a focus in Salem. Cullinan is trying to focus on SOU’s financial priorities, including the state allocation and renovation of the theater building.
* Senate Bill 270 and House Bill 3120 are all issues under discussion. Despite the many issues, legislators are under pressure to finish by the end of June.
* The presidents of the mid-size OUS universities agree that independent boards are not desirable, but they don’t want to be disadvantaged if the larger universities form their own boards.
* A strong effort is being made to ensure that SOU and the other small universities get a fair deal. The potential loss of shared services from the Chancellor’s office is problematic.

**Discussion:**

* Waters asked about the recent Ways and Means Committee meeting. Cullinan explained that this was a public meeting, and she was planning to testify along with Dan Thorndike, who was going to speak as a community member. The Governor’s office requested that the OUS presidents not attend the meeting. SOU students attended and spoke, but President Cullinan did not attend.
* Ettlich wonders what the “big problem” is. Is it that we can’t push out students through cheaply enough?
* Gentry thinks the push to form independent boards is to “unleash” U of O.
* A lively discussion ensued.

**Comments from Provost Klein:**

* Provost Klein announced that the search for the new AVP for Enrollment/Retention is in the final stages. The incumbent is Rick Weems, who will retire soon, so it is a restructured position, not a new position.
* Klein acknowledged that some departments are disturbed by the changes to the admissions website over the past year, but he explained that this website is designed to appeal to young, prospective students. It is not designed for SOU faculty or staff, nor is it meant to reflect internal organization at SOU. The goal was to make navigation simpler and information more accessible.
* Gary Miller is stepping down as Director of International Programs, and a search committee is currently looking for a replacement.

**Discussion:**

* Richards asked if the International Affairs Committee has been consulted, and Klein says yes.
* Grimland is a member of the IAC, and she explained that a second meeting was held recently. She worries that some members are disgruntled because an IAC member is not on the search committee.

**ASSOU Report:**

No ASSOU members were present. Fountain explained that a new leadership team is being seated tomorrow and will be working soon.

**Advisory Council Report:**

Carter explained that at their May 20 meeting, AC discussed shared governance. The Constitution Committee will revise FPAR and FPAP guidelines.

**Information Items:**

**Curriculum Committee Report—Pat Acklin**

* Acklin distributed a one-page report and asked if anyone had questions. Waters extended her thanks for all of the committee’s work. Richards wonders if the July curriculum deadline is still in effect, and Acklin acknowledged that it is, and senators should let their departments know about the upcoming deadline.
* The committee described the differences between program maintenance and program growth and the importance of both to further develop programs.

**Computer Lease Program, Tech Council – Paul Adalian and Brad Christ:**

* Adalian and Christ gave an update on the research that has been conducted into leasing computers to ensure that all computers are newer and more efficient. Christ explained that the complete inventory is done, and the results will now go to cabinet and Executive Committee.
* Christ mentioned a distinction between labs and classrooms. The Capacity Study revealed where excess numbers of machines were located, which will result in a reduction of around 100 machines over the next year. The priority is to keep current technology in all classrooms and with machines used for pedagogical purposes.
* The results of this research will likely encourage more coordination concerning computers on campus. Faculty computers are now inventoried as well.
* Next, Christ is reviewing potential contracts with companies. Orders could begin in summer, with 250 new machines, and 250 additional replacement machines each year.
* Gentry wonders about the leasing/purchasing dilemmas. Did we make the decision to lease without knowing the interest rate? Christ explained that interest rates are below 3%, so it’s very affordable. Companies make their money on returned equipment, which is pure profit.
* Grimland complimented the IT department whose service has been very efficient. Christ encourages folks to invite the IT coordinators to department meetings for help.

**Professional and Graduate Studies Task Force – Paul Adalian:**

* Adalian explained that a report detailing the Task Force’s work and summary results of a survey was sent out to all faculty members. The Task Force’s charge was to look at methods and structures that would build professional and graduate programs.
* The Committee presented three options. First, a College of Professional and Graduate Studies. Second, a new position to coordinate centralized graduate functions. Third, to hold more accountable staff that have graduate program responsibilities. A weakness of the last proposal is it simply means to do more work with few resources.
* One positive response was concerning program maintenance. A weakness was that we don’t have resources to expand, so the only option is to do more work with fewer resources.
* Adalian issued an apology to Sue Walsh and Jim Klein and explained that the idea of a faculty survey grew out of a committee recommendation. He asked a committee member to develop a survey so if the Provost Office approved the recommendation, it could be forwarded without having to call another meeting. The survey was launched prematurely, and all this happened during SOAR, which made it difficult for him to deal with.
* The committee described the differences between program maintenance and program growth and the importance of both to further develop programs.

**Discussion:**

* Waters asked about the next step, given the results are already distributed. It is early in the process, and Adalian explained that a discussion with the Provost will occur in the future.
* Grimland asked if Adalian was aware that Music is still planning a graduate degree program, and he confirmed that he was.
* McCain wanted to know who is on the committee. All the members (Greg Pleva, Jeanne Stallman, Lee Ayers, John King, Donna Lane, Paul Adalian) are involved in graduate programs except Stallman.
* Belcastro wants to know if there was a discussion about breaking out grad/professional programs. Belcastro felt that this was a large discussion point at last graduate council. The charge was to look at both together.
* Marlowe believes that Stallman’s presence is helpful on this committee.
* Discussion ensued about the HEC as graduate space. The consensus was that the space needs to be appropriate for the program, not just used in order to fill the space.
* Ayers explained that when she taught a class there recently, all twenty students were from Ashland and traveled to the HEC solely for that class.
* Ettlich asked if the HEC is limited in office space. Would they even be capable of housing a program?
* McCain inquired about the timeframe: Paul had a deadline to report to the Provost, but that was the only firm date.
* Ettlich ended the discussion by asking that the Graduate Studies Task Force consider available office space.

**University Planning Board Report – Connie Anderson-Cohoon, Dennis Jablonski**

* Jablonski demonstrated how to find the UPB website which can be accessed by going to the Sites tab in gmail and searching using “planning” as key word. Essential documents are there—minutes, members, bylaws, etc.
* Anderson-Cohoon gave overview of the year’s work, which began with all members attending the President’s retreat in the fall. They then met every two weeks and had regular reports from all committees. They will meet throughout the summer. They give recommendations to the president. The bylaws need updating because of the reorganization of university departments.
* The Diversity and Inclusion Committee will discuss reporting to UPB.
* Belcastro would like to see regular reports from UPB to the Senate. This should be part of faculty’s awareness. Anderson-Cohoon reminded Senate that the Senate Chair sits on UPB as an ex oficio member and could provide regular updates
* Richards wonders that considering the importance of the UPB committee, can’t we make it easier to access information on the website? Jablonski says this will be discussed. Ettlich says that just like the Vision site, maybe a shortcut that would take you to the site could be implemented.

**University Studies Committee Report – Lee Ayers**

Ayers reviewed the duties of the committee. There are still some openings on committees. She reviewed the many courses that have been approved.

**Action Items**

Sahr moved to accept the committee’s recommendation to pass Honors 315, 317, and 319, which had all been brought forward in the May 13 meeting. May seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor and none opposed. There were no abstentions.

**Ranks Language, Constitution Committee – Sherry Ettlich**

Sahr moved to table the discussion of ranks language to fall. Carter seconded the motion. Ettlich would like the motion to be amended. Sahr moved to reopen this discussion in the year’s first senate meeting. Belcastro seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed. There were no abstentions.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:19.