Faculty Senate Minutes

February 25, 2013

SU 313 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

**Present:** Deborah Brown, Dave Carter, Prakash Chenjeri, Kate Cleland-Sipfle, Sherry Ettlich, Doug Gentry Fredna Grimland Dan Harvey, John King, Rich May, Gerry McCain, Steve Jessup, John Richards, Larry Shrewsbury, Ellen Siem, Robin Strangfeld, Jamie Vener, and Jody Waters.

**Absent:** Amy Belcastro, Todd Carney, Mary Russell-Miller, and Kasey Mohammad.

**Visitors:** President Cullinan, Provost Klein, Craig Morris, Susan Walsh, Jennifer Fountain, Lee Ayres, Charles Lane, and Kemble Yates.

**Agenda**

**Approval of minutes from February 11:**

Richards moved to approve the minutes from February 11. Ettlich seconded. The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed. Marlowe abstained.

**Announcements:**

* Chenjeri reports that the final three programs in the campus theme series will take place this week. The first will be presented in the Meese Room of the Hannon Library tonight at 5:00, “The Business of Pursuing Happiness.”
* “Education as Happiness,” a panel discussion, will take place on February 28.
* On Wednesday, March 6, at 7:00, also in the Hannon Library’s Meese Room, will be the final event for this term, “Happiness: Is it ALL in Your Brain?” Mark Krause and Rachel Jochem from Psychology will present.

**Comments from President Cullinan:**

* President Cullinan announced that Greg Jones will give the next lecture in the Distinguished Lecture Series tomorrow night.
* SOU’s Men’s Basketball team travels north to play Warner Pacific tomorrow as well.
* Tuition Equity is going forward. It has passed the House and is now going to the Senate. Bill 270 (Institutional Boards) is also going forward. Cullinan reminded Senate that our priority is still funding.
* Cullinan read excerpts from a recent editorial in *Oregonian*, that used an interesting and amusing analogy for all of the pieces of the higher education funding model. Lego death star analogy is used to point out that funding is still the missing piece in the plan.

**Discussion**:

Marlowe asked how we should respond to the questions about governing boards. Cullinan explained that we should not make statements at the moment. Too much is uncertain. We must be distinctive and focus on priorities.

**Comments from Provost Klein:**

* Klein reported that at the Academic Strategies meeting, EMDA major was passed, along with the new 3.0 required GPA for entering freshmen fall of 2014.
* Three new searches are underway: Center for Instructional Support, Honors College Director and Grants Director.
* We are in the National Playoffs in Men’s Basketball. NAIA has its own version of March Madness that will take place in Kansas City, MO.
* Assessment Specialist has been retained and will represent us for the rest of the year. Kristin Nagy-Catz will represent SOU at the system level.

**ASSOU Report:**

There was no ASSOU Report.

**Advisory Council Report:**

* AC met last week with a light agenda.
* Three issues were discussed.
  + First, the Healthy Campus Initiative was discussed. Questions included how or even if we should move forward and if SOU should become a smoke-free campus. Klein added that he has been working with Matt Vogel, who will make a recommendation to the board.
  + A student/veteran has talked with President Cullinan about honoring Veteran’s Day as a school holiday.
  + Student wants more class time and has questioned if there is enough time for students to meet assessment benchmarks.
* Waters added that students have brought issues forward with class cancellations. Some students are concerned that professors are cancelling classes and then expecting students to do a large amount of work in a short period of time. Waters explained that she has fielded concerns from students who want to be represented on faculty committees.

**Information Items:**

**Association of Oregon Faculties Report – Kemble Yates:**

* Yates reported that as the faculty representative on the AOF, he is delighted that IFS is participating. AOF has met twice this year. They lobby the legislature for issues concerning faculty. Yates discussed issues with Rep. Mike Denbrow, who is the Chair of the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee. While larger institutions want to have Institutional Boards, Regionals want to make sure that funding models makes sense. Who would be on each board is still under debate.
* The Governor has proposed to fund the state budget by attacking PERS. Governor wants to cap all cost of living adjustments on PERS retirees.
* AOF is opposed to capping PERS as being discussed currently. Yates presented two competing legal opinions, which are available if anyone is interested. Is there a “fair” way to modify PERS--not legal, but fair.
* OSA is opposing it as well.
* Portland State Senate is implementing new ranks. PSU Senate Website has additional information.

**Discussion**: Marlowe asked about our colleagues at OSU. OSU will not stand and watch this. OSU hopes this does not go through. McCain asked why we should hope this doesn’t go through. Yates explained that there is a lot of political push to make this happen. Reasonable questions are being raised. Yates will send out a list of our representatives, along with contact information. Marlowe thanked Waters for keeping us informed of these issues and for devoting time to presenting this information.

**Rogue Journal of Undergraduate Research – Kyle Pate:**

Pate gave an update and handouts about the progress of the Rogue Journal of Undergraduate Research. Application deadlines are approaching. This is a venue for new scholarship and is open to all disciplines on campus. ASSOU funds a small team of editors who will help students work on scholarship. Pate wants to get the word out to faculty and students about the work the journal is doing. He may ask for faculty help in providing feedback to submitters. What does it mean to be a scholar in the Social Sciences? Editors will serve on rotations to ensure institutional memory. Submissions must include original scholarship. A style guide is on the website. Waters asked if primary data have to be gathered? Pate explained that literature review does not count as original analysis. Waters questions if humanities will not be welcome. Pate explained that the *West Wind Review* fills that spot. First application deadline is two or three weeks into the spring quarter.

**Discussion Items:**

**Curriculum Committee – Lee Ayers:**

Ayers presented a packet of courses brought forth from CC. Many are new classes. Others are clean up issues. CC is meeting with departments.

**Faculty Development Committee, Carpenter I Grants –Erika Leppman:**

* Alison Burke reported that FDC has recommended that six awards were granted, equaling $10,000. The remaining $15,000 will be rolled over to Carpenter II Grants.
* Ettlich moved that we suspend the two-week rule, and Carter seconded. The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed. Ettlich moved that the FDC’s recommendations for Carpenter I Grants be accepted, and Carter seconded. Marlowe abstained.

**Student/Faculty Confidentiality Statement for Committees – Kyle Ragsdale**:

**Action Items:**

How can we get adequate and appropriate student representation of students on senate committees? Students have drafted a confidentiality clause that might apply to students as well. It is in its first draft.

**Discussion:**  Richards agrees that it is good to include faculty in the confidentiality clauses. Gentry drew from his experiences on the AHB and agrees that the same rules should apply for faculty as well as students. As meetings reconvene, it’s a good time to remind everyone involved of the established guidelines. Everyone has the same obligations.

* Waters commented that we should hold orientation and training for Senate.
* Ettlich agreed and commented that committee chairs should also be trained.
* Cleland-Sipfle mentioned that she comes from a background where folks refused to sign oaths of any kind, and we should have a contingency plan for this.
* Gentry encourages an earnest conversation now rather than later. Don’t wait too long while we consult attorneys and such.
* Richards questioned the third sentence on sanctions. If students can be sanctioned, what about faculty?
* Waters reported that she will follow up with our OUS legal counsel to clarify questions about sanctions, privacy and other matters prior to drafting a statement for faculty

**University Studies Committee Course Approval – Lee Ayers: all courses**

* All courses passed unanimously. Thanks to Larry Shrewsbury and Mary Russell-Miller for supporting the Lock-in and representing the Senate at the event.
* One exploration and two J-level Integration.
* Ettlich moved to approve, and Carter seconded. Motion passed with all in favor, none opposed. There were no abstentions.

**Discussion**:

Jessup wondered why FS doesn’t bring forth proposals and initiatives? We respond and react, but is there a process for introducing bills? Waters has been discussing this with a faculty member. Usually issues come to Waters, go to AC, and then come to senate. Most are dealing with matters of policy. Ayers reminded folks that our current model is much more civil between the administration and faculty compared to the past. A changing climate might bring a change in Senate.

Yates added to the conversation and said that Senate can add to media conversation, make announcements and statements. Ultimately, Senate is in an advisory role. OSU has a particularly active Senate. Ettlich added that many issues are sent from Senate to committees. Labor distribution then is more equal. Cullinan adds that the revised committee structure is a recent accomplishment of senate.

**Inter-Institutional Faculty Senate Report – Charles Lane:**

* Lane reported that last meeting of IIFS was at OSU in late January, and the next meeting was planned for Friday in Eugene but was cancelled. Representatives from Senate from Lane County were to be there. The next meeting will be held in Monmouth.
* Last meeting’s conversation was with OSU Provost and two members of the house: Denbrow (House Chair for Education) and Sarah Gelser (Chair of Education Committee in the house for k-12). The discussion centered on governance the state of Oregon and within OUS system. The conversation with OSU Provost and OSU’s response to U of O and PSU’s proposals for independent boards. Although the President of OSU is not a fan of independent boards, OSU cannot afford to let other big universities get away. It dilutes the chain to connect to money, power, etc.
* Denbrow is a Democrat from Portland, Chair of Higher Ed Committee, and a PCC faculty member, and he has some understanding of higher Ed. He started with laundry list. Some discussion occurred about the tuition equity issue. Some discussion centered around the state treasurer, looking at funding opportunity grants. Looking at better completion rates of duel enrollment high school and university systems. Much discussion ensued about schools of education.
* Denbrow asked what they could give him; he wanted numbers. Without numbers, there will be no discussion. Don’t talk about quality. Must be tangible, numbers. Confusion about changing structures, HEC changes. Denbrow asked how to structure it. He inquired about models, but the only models that exist now are in combining smaller, regional institutions within larger systems.
* Board will prepare a document for Denbrow and Gelner that stresses the importance of each university and its uniqueness.
* Gelser is an OSU grad argument for independent board that would be accountable to larger board. Who will serve on these institutional boards?
* Gelser’s K-12 education focus in regards to 40/40/20 will aim at preparing graduates for college, not just high school completion. Resources needed pre-college remedial work. IFA is waiting for draft back but the letter is a page long.
* IFS will work with them on accountability if integrity of each institution is maintained.
* Cullinan added that the legislature is overwhelmed with numbers on all aspects of our reporting. We give numbers and don’t get anything back.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:32.