Faculty Senate Minutes

April 15, 1013

SU 313 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

**Present:** Dave Carter, Sherry Ettlich, Fredna Grimland, Kevin Sahr, John King, Byron Marlowe, Rich May, Mary Russell-Miller, Kasey Mohammad, Gerry McCain, John Richards, Steve Jessup, Larry Shrewsbury, Ellen Siem, Robin Strangfeld, Jamie Vener, Jody Waters.

**Absent:** Doug Gentry.

**Visitors:** Susan Walsh, Lee Ayers, Mary Cullinan, Jim Klein, Marc Tramonte, Steve Thorpe.

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

**Approval of minutes from March 11 and April 1:**

Carter moved that the minutes from March 11 be approved. Mohammad seconded, and the motion passed with all in favor, none opposed. Carney and Chenjeri abstained.

Vener moved that the minutes from April 1 be approved. Grimland seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor and none opposed. Strangfeld abstained.

**Announcements:**

* Chenjeri announced that this week’s Distinguished Lecture conflicted with the Campus Theme event, so Kemble Yates’s talk will move to April 25 at 7:00 Meese Room.
* Geoff Mills will present in the Distinguished Lecture series this week.
* The Ed Tech Summit will be held on campus all day Friday and will feature an Australian keynote speaker. Registration is $10.

**Comments from President Cullinan:**

* President Cullinan will give her State of the University talk at 4:30 on Wednesday. A wine reception will follow.
* Two Prioritization forums will be held with President Cullinan and Dan DeNeui. Faculty and staff can ask questions and gather information. Task force members will not going to attend. They are working hard and deserve support.
* Staff working on Orientation gave a very helpful presentation at Campus Connections. They will present again on Wednesday, April 17, at 1:00 and on April 24 at 11:00 in the Rogue River Room. It is important to participate in the new format.
* The Ways and Means Committee held a hearing Saturday morning in the Music Recital Hall. It was a good opportunity to showcase SOU, and students showed up and did a good job representing SOU. Waters, Thorpe, and Krause testified. A presence at this hearing was important because this group decides who gets state funding. More RCC faculty than SOU faculty were present. President Cullinan would have liked a stronger SOU faculty and staff presence. Community members spoke about theater project, but SOU’s message was not as clearly presented as RCC’s.

**Discussion:**

* King asked how faculty can get involved by sending statements to the Committee. Cullinan asked all interested faculty members to go through Liz Shelby.
* Waters credited RCC for the unified message and strong presence. Cullinan reasserted that SOU students mentioned both RCC and SOU concerns while RCC students only mentioned themselves. Contact Liz Shelby if you’d like to contribute comments in writing.
* Marlowe how President Cullinan felt about the meeting. She explained that it was simply a hearing—the committee listened and took testimony but did not respond. K-12 has been funded and were not present.

**Comments from Provost Klein:**

* Klein met with department chairs to clear up misconceptions.  We have a million dollar budget cut to meet this year as part of a $2.5 cut for the current biennium.  Last year we cut $1.5M out of the budget with $1M for this year.  These cuts have nothing to do with Prioritization, Houses, or anything going on with the HEC.  This is a cut we knew about going into the current biennium.  Provost Klein asked that Senate members communicate this message with their departments.  The original plan was to cut more last year and less this year, but it did not work out.
* Reductions are being made primarily to the GE curriculum. We are trying to preserve majors and programs and make the least possible impact on students.
* HAT (House Advisory Team) committee is now looking at other house proposals that were submitted but not chosen earlier in the year. A message is going out to ask faculty members currently working on house development to serve as mentors.
* Workshops will happen in spring to help faculty teach effectively with larger class size. These are scheduled for May 3 and May 10. More information will go out this week. A two-day pedagogical summit is scheduled for this summer.

**Discussion:**

* Sahr asked about course releases that graduate coordinators and others get for their programs. Is there no standard? Klein says yes, we know how much faculty time is released for administration. Walsh says this information is available on the Graduate Studies website, listed by department. Sahr wants to know if this is available to faculty. Klein explained that this information can be found in Banner and can run as a report if people want the information.
* King added that the Grad Council will convene in a Grad Council summit in early May to think through structures and support that are necessary for grad programs to run. All information in the Graduate Programs Guide will be updated. This information is now three years old. This will be broken down by program. Waters wonders if a discussion should happen about equity in release time (MIIS/McNair).
* Klein added that the Capacity Study also included broad categories. Belcastro also wants the role of a coordinator to be discussed further. King says the summit will look at these issues and report to Senate.
* Sahr wondered if the ELU bank is being used properly.

**ASSOU Report:** No ASSOU members were present.

**Advisory Council Report:**

* King reported that AC discussed theLegislative progress. He acknowledged that more is going on. 3.42 million dollars are still in the governor’s budget, so additional funding could still come down to the Southern Oregon region.
* House building events—Provost and President covered most of what AC discussed.
* Formation of new ranks—this may be part of the bargaining discussion this summer. The state gives each institution the option to add a track for librarians and Professor of Practice. Waters says this will be on our next Senate agenda for discussion.

**Discussion**:

* Thorpe inquired about OEIB, which came out in the 2011 legislative session and may continue on though it was slated to phase out. He discussed where strategic initiatives could be made to help in the five areas identified. Pilot regional achievement compacts could pertain to SOU, so we may be invited to join with ESD to discuss this. Thorpe noted that this program is outside of the governor’s budget. Cullinan will meet with Scott Perry, director of ESD, to discuss further. More work will require additional funding.
* King noted that the Pirates to Raiders program has gained attention from other institutions, and Cullinan would like to see additional funding for this.

**Information Items:**

**Marketing and Media Relations – Marc Tramonte:**

* President Cullinan introduced the new Executive Director of Marketing and Communications, Marc Tramonte, who comes to us from Seattle with experience at Apple and Microsoft. He will work on the high-tech side of marketing. He’s only been here for two weeks, but he plans to meet with stakeholders and partners to form a great story for the university and bring it that story to the world. He believes that we need an incentive to encourage more folks to come here and stay here.

**Discussion:**

* Marlowe wondered about natural marketplaces outside of Oregon. Salt Lake? Sacramento? Phoenix? Tramonte explained that he’s not looking that far yet—California is yielding a lot and must be addressed.
* Ettlich wondered what surprises Tramonte has encountered here so far. He explained that he hasn’t had many standout surprises except that he is surprised that more people don’t use Google calendar.
* Waters asks how we’ll look different a year from now. Tramonte explained that it’s a matter of differentiation with stories to back it up, putting measurement instruments in place for reporting back, and utilizing inbound, “free” marketing, pulled by consumer rather than pushed by us. He wants to see tools and platforms in place. We are fragmented at the moment. We must put foundational building blocks in place and then layer on that.

**Discussion Items:**

**University Studies Committee – Lee Ayers:**

* Ayers brought forth recommendations from the University Studies Committees with one minor correction.
* A new task force will begin this week to look at BS requirements.
* Ayres will report back to people who have inquired about BS requirements.

**Discussion:**
Richards wondered about designated programming courses applying towards quantitative reasoning. Ayers hopes this will be the case, but it is not yet.

**Faculty Development Committee – Erika Leppmann:**

* Leppmann brought forward the recommendation of the FDC to approve two OHSU Carpenter Grant applications for funding. These will help faculty with degree completion.
* King motioned to suspend the two-week rule. Ettlich seconded, and the motion passed with all in favor, none opposed.
* Sipfle moved to approve the Faculty Development Committee’s recommendation to fund the two applicants. Belcastro seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor, none opposed.

**Legislative Update –**

* Waters discussed the “PERS Lite” document (press release). Senate Bill 270 is a big bill that, among other things, proposes independent boards. The four regional institutions will still be managed under one board as proposed.

**Discussion:**

* Cullinan is concerned that 270 leaves room for larger institutions to form independent boards. It must go through the Ways and Means Committee first, and they will analyze and discuss the potential cost. Nothing is set in stone. All factors must be analyzed. OUS has been conducting fiscal analysis, but the outcome remains uncertain. 270 will likely go forward with option of boards and go through the legislative process. The current wording does not allow faculty representation on boards, which means no university employees can serve. Students would be allowed.
* Waters advised Senators that we will likely need to respond and are waiting for some state-level discussions to unfold; advised that we may need to submit a statement with little notice and requested that Senators either watch for messages on this, or be willing to endorse an SOU statement on the institutional boards, and specifically, demanding faculty representation if they go forward. AOF is pushing back on not having faculty and staff representation according to Ettlich. Ettlich asked about the regionals. Are we still under one board? Cullinan is not in favor of a consortium board. We must revise the language so that each institution can decide how to proceed.
* Belcastro wonders why there is not strength in numbers. Why wouldn’t it be better to stay together under one board? Cullinan explained that if just the U of O pulled out, insurance premiums would go up for everyone. Cullinan feels strongly that the small regional schools in Oregon are unique and different enough to warrant individual boards if the larger universities pull out.
* Ettlich noted that at a recent conference she attended, Rep Michael Dembrow indicated in his noon address that the university system does not speak in a clear and unified manner, compared with the community college system.
* Richards noted that Sunday’s *Oregonian* endorsed the idea of independent boards.

**Action Items:**

None

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm.