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Minutes 2009-2010

Faculty Senate Minutes

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11-2009

## **Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – November 2009**

Faculty Senators

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November 18, 2009  
Library Auditorium  
3:00 pm

**APPROVED January 20, 2010**

Present: Adams, Gubler-Hanna, Carr, Connors, Fisher, Haywick, Hillman, Lunceford, Marshall, Shaw, Shelly-Tremblay, Summerlin, Toelken, Johnsten, Kingman, McCormick, Baggett, Kinniburgh, Romey, P. Turnipseed, Finely, Lemley, Prendergast, Burnham, Perry, Botros, Retzlaff-Roberts, D. Turnipseed, Woodford, Brown, Meyer, Wright

Excused: Estis, Spector, Axsmith, Perez-Pineda, Powers, Ambrose, Bosarge, Flakos, Kahn, Quereshi, Teplick, Madden, Keasler, King, Campbell

Unexcused: Rowell, Langan, Byrne, Omar, Pacheco

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by D. Turnipseed at 3:04 p.m.

2. Approval of minutes from the October meeting

Motion to approve minutes from October's meeting was made and seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Chair's report

a. University Club

The University Club should be ready around Valentines Day. D. Haywick asked about access to the building and parking. D. Turnipseed noted the goal was to be as "green" as possible. The primary parking will be on the adjacent road.

b. E-Learning

The University E-Learning Committee and various sub-committees are meeting regularly discussing various aspects of the move towards E-Learning. S. Fisher heads the sub-committee evaluating copyright and other intellectual property issues. S. Fisher distributed a *draft* of recommendations being considered by his sub-committee. Some of the recommendations will be changed prior to submission to Dr. Johnson. The big issue before the committee has been: who owns the copyright. When a professor develops a traditional class, the professor owns the intellectual property rights. The subcommittee wants on-line/hybrid courses to be treated the same way. Currently the University can use anything a professor puts on-line for non-commercial purposes. The sub-committee is making recommendations regarding the commercialization of on-line intellectual property and the potential for royalties.

The sub-committee has also suggested the use of Creative Commons and asked the administration to provide support and clarification on copyright issues associated with using the work of others as part of on-line/hybrid courses.

S. Fisher noted that in the private sector, if an employee creates something, the employer owns it. Traditionally the University has worked differently. To date the University has allowed faculty members to pull materials from on-line course shells and given faculty members the right to determine whether someone else can use the materials. J. Shelly-Tremblay asked if the University currently could pull materials from computer back-up tapes. S. Fisher responded that the University probably can, but the University says that it does not do so.

S. Fisher noted that the faculty has a vested interest in protecting course content. He also noted that the development of on-line content is very time-consuming and the sub-committee is encouraging the University to provide incentives for development of these materials.

c. H1N1 Update

Administration of the swine flu vaccine will start on Friday (Nov. 20). T. Meyer reported that nursing students, under the supervision of a faculty member, will be administering the vaccine in the Mitchell Center. Those who would like the vaccine should enter through the south side. The clinic is open to faculty, staff, students, and families (ages 4 and up). There will be plenty of vaccine available. While the current priority is vaccinating those who are 9 to 24 years old, anyone who comes to the clinic will be given the vaccine.

d. University Evaluation Committee

Questions about the current faculty evaluations have been raised with the administration. Dr. Johnson recently indicated that he has been aware of issues for some time. Dr. Johnson has agreed to invite members of the Faculty Senate to join the University-level committee charged with reviewing the evaluation system.

D. Turnipseed noted that the questions asked on the current evaluation forms need to be reviewed. In addition, the University needs to look at evaluations for the hybrid courses. D. Turnipseed opined that evaluations of 1st time hybrid courses should not be used in the annual evaluation of a faculty member.

e. Faculty Appreciation Lunch

The Band and Football team will host a Faculty Appreciation Lunch at the Waterman Globe in the Mitchell Center on Monday (Nov. 23) from 11:30-1:30. Everyone who attends will receive either an autographed football or a jersey.

D. Turnipseed asked for the feelings of the Senate on this year's involvement with support for the University's athletic programs. D. Turnipseed opined that he felt the Senate's involvement had provided positive publicity for both the faculty and the Faculty Senate. T. Meyer noted that as long as the Senate maintains a balance between enthusiasm for athletics and concern over maintenance of academics and standards, involvement should be viewed positively. P. Carr noted that someone had remarked that the Senate should establish a Faculty Morale Committee to build on the success of the faculty tent at the Homecoming game.

D. Turnipseed noted that there has been a proposal made for a faculty/family picnic during the Spring semester. Donors have already promised beverages and other support for that kind of event.

g. Faculty Parking Issues

D. Turnipseed asked if there had been any break in the parking issues at the new Health Sciences building. J. Burnham responded that there were still problems and, even if fines are increased, there are not enough faculty spots for all faculty and staff who work in the building.

D. Haywick raised the problem of students being able to register for classes with outstanding parking tickets. D. Turnipseed stated that there has been talk of requiring students to clear all fines before registering.

A discussion of the problems with JagTran ensued, as well as a discussion of the need to encourage students to walk between buildings.

4. Old Business

5. New Business

a. Faculty voting on Constitution changes

D. Turnipseed is still working on a method to distribute ballots for voting on the changes to the Faculty Senate Constitution. The challenge of how to get a high participation rate was discussed. Under the current Constitution a majority of “the faculty” must approve changes to the Faculty Senate Constitution. The caucus leaders will need to take an active role and encourage faculty members to return the ballot.

J. Shelley-Tremblay noted that paper surveys generally have approximately a 10% response rate, while e-surveys generally have a 35-45% response rate.

b. Additional Constitution changes

J. Shelley-Tremblay’s comments highlight a current problem with the Faculty Senate Constitution. With response rates so low, it will be virtually impossible to even get a majority of the faculty to vote on a change to the Constitution, much less to get a majority to vote in favor of the change.

With this in mind, D. Turnipseed moved that the Faculty Senate Constitution be amended such that any future Constitution change will require at least 50% of the faculty to vote on the change. A change would be approved if a simple majority (50%) of those voting, vote in favor of the change.

The motion was seconded by J. Connors.

A discussion ensued with a focus on reasons for and against making it difficult to amend the Constitution. Concerns were raised about the possibility of a Constitution change approved by only 25% of the faculty.

D. Turnipseed asked caucus leaders to take the issue back to their respective colleges for discussion before the January meeting.

c. E-learning

D. Turnipseed suggested the formation of an ad hoc committee comprised of Faculty Senate members and other interested faculty members who have taught on-line and/or hybrid courses. Members of the ad hoc committee would be available to answer questions for faculty members who are venturing into the on-line/hybrid format for the first time. A Senate ad hoc committee may be more approachable, empathetic, and user-friendly for faculty converting to on-line or hybrid course. D. Turnipseed pointed out that this would not be a committee to do the work, but rather to guide and make available resources and experience to help faculty move to the newer formats. Members of the committee would not be expected to make large commitments of time. There were no volunteers to help with this project.

J. Shelley-Tremblay stated that his previous University had a teaching circle that met periodically to exchange ideas. The teaching circle served as an established forum for discussing issues as they arose.

The possibility of having a second Town Hall regarding E-Learning was raised. D. Turnipseed indicated a second meeting was something that could be discussed.

A question was raised about possible changes to the University's e-learning platform. D. Turnipseed acknowledged that a possible change was being evaluated by one of the E-Learning subcommittees.

d. "Friends of the Faculty"

To thank companies who have provided support for the Faculty Senate – e.g., sponsors of the faculty tent at homecoming – proposed establishing a "Friends of the Faculty" plaque that could be presented to donors as a way of thanking donors and encouraging more donations.

6. Committee Reports

- Academic Development and Mentoring (Phil Carr)  
The committee is working on a new charge that will be brought to a future meeting.
- Environmental Quality (Doug Haywick)  
No report.
- Evaluation (Amy Prendergast)  
The committee met on Nov. 18 to address concerns regarding the length of the survey. The committee is evaluating dividing the survey into two parts; administering the first part at the end of January and the second part in March. The committee would like to address the E-Learning issue. Input from Senate members is encouraged, preferably by the end of the 1st week of classes.
- Planning and Development (Sheryl Falkos)  
No report.
- Policies and Faculty Handbook (Sam Fisher)  
The new Faculty Handbook is out. It can be accessed from the Academic Affairs webpage. The committee is reviewing the changes.
- Salary and Benefits (Julie Estis)

- No report.
- Technology Utilization (Tom Meyer)  
No report

#### 7. Caucus Reports

- Allied Health (Elizabeth Adams)  
No report.
- Arts and Sciences (Thomas Shaw)  
A&S Senators met with the Dean this morning. They discussed E-Learning and budgeting.
- Continuing Education (Vickie McCormick)  
No report.
- Computer and Information Sciences (David Langan)  
No report.
- Education (Dennis Campbell)  
No report.
- Engineering (TBD)  
No report.
- Library (Vera Finley)  
No report
- Mitchell College of Business (Donna Retzlaff-Roberts)  
A College committee is looking at E-Learning and evaluating what courses will be placed on-line for Fall semester.
- Medicine (Judy Burnham)  
J. Burnham announced that the Children's Miracle Network would be on Lite Mix radio (99.9 FM) next week. All donations will go to Women's & Children's Hospital.
- Nursing (Diane Keasler)  
No report.

Prior to adjourning a question was raised about placing hand sanitizer dispensers in each building. D. Turnipseed said he would raise that possibility with Dr. Franks.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.