

Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
March 15, 2006

Present:	M. Baum	D. Boerth	L. Brodeur	E. Carreiro	
	E. Fisher	K. Gramling	Y. Kim	A. Klobucka	
	K. Langley	R. Laoulache	S. Leclair	J. Leffers	
	H. Michel	A. Mollo	N. O'Connor	G. O'Rielly	
	S. Peterson	D. Rancour	F. Scarano	L. Sun	E. Wini.
Excused:	D. Bergeron	L. Bianco	D. Borim	K. Curran-Kelly	
	P. Gibbs	B. Jacobskind	A. Klimt	G. Koot	
	S. Krumholz	B. Notaros	F. Sousa		
	S. Scott	K. Stokesbury			
Absent:	P. Bacdayan	B. Barnes	B. Bouchard	L. Cheng	
	A. Costa	P. Currier	D. Georgianna		
	J. Griffith	A. Gunasekaran		A. Hausknecht	
	O. Khalil	R. Kowalczyk	W. LeBlanc	K. Manning	
	P. Owens	B. Singh	S. Sousa	L. Travers	
	H. Xu	M. Zarrillo			
Guests:	J. Bergandy	B. Mikolajczak			

S. Leclair, Senate President opened the meeting at 3:37 pm.

1. Minutes of the February Senate Meeting modified to include Barbara Jacobskind's name as a member of the Service Learning Task Force. E. Fisher moves to accept minutes as amended; K. Langley seconds. Motion carries.

2. Nancy Dluhy from the Provost Search and Screen reported. There were 17 interviews at the airport and 5 candidates came to campus. There were 20 members of the Search and Screen Committee and with good participation from all of the member. No fewer than 3 candidates will be forwarded to the Chancellor; strength and weaknesses plus comment forms are due Friday morning, March 16th. Susan Leclair encouraged everyone present to participate.

3. Senate President Report: President Wilson has accepted the Faculty Senate's invitation to visit campus on 3/29/06 at 3 pm. This is an open meeting for all faculty and this is his first visit to our campus. Room is II 228.

3. Committee Reports:

3.1 Research Committee Report: Bal Ram Singh indicated that he is a member of the committee but they have not met since September because there really isn't any business due to changes made by the Provosts regarding the manner in which research policy making is accomplished and how the local grant money is awarded. Susan Leclair indicated that the committee has a standing charge plus another given to it in September; one of which was to have the committee survey the faculty to determine their needs regarding the support services from the Office of Grants and Contracts. Bal Ram Singh then recalled that there was an initial meeting but no one was willing to be chair. Susan indicated that additional members have been appointed so that perhaps one of them would serve as chair. Bal Ram Singh also indicated that the committee did such a survey in prior years.

Discussion ensued regarding process of committee charges done by the Steering Committee. Susan Leclair reminded the group that the Faculty Senate website now has standard forms to better document committee activities. Elaine Fisher was recognized for all her efforts in designing and updating these forms.

Elaine Fisher read the charge for the research committee from the website and indicated that each of the standing committees have standing committee charges.

A question arose about the status of the controversy surrounding the recommendations from the Senate regarding the Research Grants Committee activities (an alternate committee was appointed by the Provost and the recommendation from the Senate was ignored). Susan Leclair indicated that a grievance is in process but it has not been settled.

4. New Business:

4.1 Proposed College of Engineering Name change.

In December, this topic came before the Senate and it was decided that an open campus meeting was to be held and chaired by the Faculty Senate and Faculty Federation. The Dean of the College of Engineering was invited but indicated he would not attend if the Faculty Federation was involved. S. Leclair then invited Dean Costa to

a meeting hosted only by the Faculty Senate. His response was that he could only attend a meeting chaired by the Provost.

A Provost communication to the Faculty Senate President regarding such a meeting said that Faculty did not have primacy in this arena and there would be no meeting.

Proposed name change is College of Engineering and Applied Science. Rationale: No longer a pure engineering college; college also includes material and textile science, physics, and computer and information science. Approximately 30% of the college is comprised on non-engineering departments.

Dean Costa did discuss the name change with the faculty members of the College of Engineering. R. Laoulache spoke in support of the name change.

K.Langley indicated that each of the departments in question were not traditionally a part of this college and as they joined that college, promises were made to change the name to better reflect the college composition.

J. Griffith said he rejects the notion that the change of a name of a college at UMass Dartmouth is none of the business of the faculty. He indicated that the contract this supports his argument. There should have been a civil discussion regarding branding of this magnitude and this is a demonstration of poor custodial-ship. He also took exception to the use of the term "applied" science as the best possible selection of a name and said that little, if any, research was done to find any alternatives.

J. Griffith moves that the Senate has the responsibility to discuss other options and explore alternatives for a name at the next general Senate membership meeting despite the fact that the decisions have already made. Elaine Fisher seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously. Susan will invite members of the College of Engineering to give a presentation including an invitation to the Dean or his designee at the next general membership meeting.

Further discussion ensued.....

It was suggested that we might want to separate the issues surrounding shared governance and that of the name change.

B. Singh indicated that the discussion only occurred at the Engineering College level but not at any other level. The name change might impact other colleges, which members of the Engineering College may not have considered since no discussion has occurred. Exception was taken that another group is silencing the faculty. M. Baum inquired regarding the history of a vote of no confidence by the UMass Dartmouth campus. (Yes). It appears as if this is a college versus campus issue. There was no consultation and there's a shared ownership in this name (science as well as applied) particularly with the College of Arts and Sciences.

Any prior name changes (at the department level) on campus have been brought before the Senate as well as the Faculty Federation. D. Boerth indicated that there was a memorandum of understanding when the Department of Chemistry changed its name to the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. K Gramling indicated that the same had occurred in a Nursing Department name change so there's precedent for having these changes discussed.

4.2 PeopleSoft and Advising:

B. Jacobskind indicated a concern that there are issues regarding the advising holds. Several other faculty have had similar experiences. S. Leclair asked for volunteers (B. Jacobskind, R. Laoulache) to survey the department chairs (email or phone call) regarding inappropriate early release or release of student's advising hold by the first full week of April.

Motion to adjourn ?? Meeting adjourns at 5:17 pm.