

University Faculty Senate Minutes September 19, 2002

Members present: Bill Abbott, Joanne Ardovini-Brooker, Terry Bilhartz, Leonard Breen, Ted Creighton, Mary Lynn DeShazo, Mary Gutermuth, Marsha Harman, Jeff Harwell, Penny Hasekoester, Deborah Hatton, David Henderson, Joan Hudson, Ann Jerabek, Joe Kirk, Gerald Kohers, Paul Loeffler, Holly Miller, Valerie Muehsam, Debra Price, Kandi Tayebi, Victoria Titterington, Tamara Waggener, Gene Young

Member absent: Sam Sullivan

Research Enhancement Fund

Guest speaker, Gordon Plishker, Associate Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs, discussed the proposal for changes in Research Enhancement Fund guidelines. He explained that the proposed changes were recommendations from the Research Enhancement Program Review Committee. The Council of Academic Deans in March asked this committee to revise the program to assure the following:

- Greater return on investment (external grant applications, external research funding, refereed publications, institutional reputation).
- Greater accountability.
- Greatest benefit to new faculty seeking to establish an externally funded research program.

Several faculty asked questions regarding the proposed changes, including the following:

- How much money was reserved for the program?
- How are outside reviewers found and how compensated?
- Why were only 2 tracks decided on?
- Why was three years the cut off for new faculty?
- How were differences in research across disciplines addressed by the committee?
- What was the impetus behind the changes?
- Is the proposal already policy?

Dr. Plishker provided the following answers to faculty concerns:

- \$180,000 was set aside for the program
- Outside reviewers would not be compensated and would be selected by a committee and suggestions from the grant applicants
- Differences between disciplines were addressed by the professional development grants.
- Changes were brought about because the old program was not receiving a good return on the investment and faculty wanted a change in the review process. He also admitted that the Closing the Gap initiative requiring more federal funding was also an impetus.
- The proposal was unanimously passed by the Academic Policy Council.

Dr. Valerie Muehsam assured Faculty Senators that Dr. David Payne, Vice President of Academic Affairs, wanted the Faculty Senate's feedback on the proposal and that faculty concerns would be considered.

Numerous faculty who were not Senators attended the meeting to voice concerns about the proposed changes, including Dr. Jim Olson, Distinguished Professor of History; Dr. Diane Dowdey; Dr. Tracy Steele; Dr. Mark Frank; Dr. Julie Hall; Dr. Tom Chasteen; Dr. Frieda Koeninger; Dr. Vic Sower; Dr. Raphael Saumell-Munoz and others.

The major concerns expressed included the following:

- Proposal emphasizes the sciences at the expense of encouraging research in the arts, humanities, and business.
- Fostering grant applications does not equate with fostering research in many disciplines.
- Many disciplines do not have money available that would be tied directly to research.
- Proposal may have a negative effect on Summer research.
- Arts and humanities were not represented by the committee that redesigned the program.
- Requirements for promotion at all levels have been raised and research should be supported at all ranks.
- Fostering grant applications in the sciences is important but should not be pursued at the cost of removing support for research in most of the rest of the university.

Resolution

The Faculty Senate made the following recommendation.

Dr. Mary Guterth moved **As the result of major concerns by faculty as a whole, the implementation of the Research Enhancement Fund changes should be tabled until such time that the Faculty Senate has adequate time for further review.**

The motion was seconded by Dr. Debra Price and passed unanimously by the Faculty Senate.

Bill Waldron's Wife

Chair Valerie Muehsam informed the Faculty Senate of the death of Bill Waldron's wife, Betty. The Faculty Senate expressed their regrets.

APC Update

Chair Valerie Muehsam reported that the library has purchased the program Turnitin (through funds from Computer Services), which identifies plagiarism in student papers. She also reported that the students will not have to be notified ahead of time and that faculty participation is voluntary.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of September 5, 2002 were approved as amended.

Committees

Faculty Affairs, University Affairs, Academic Affairs, and Committee on Committees met to elect chairs and recorders. The results were the following:

Faculty Affairs—Chair, Tamara Waggener; Recorder, Joanne Ardovini-Brooker

University Affairs—Chair, Leonard Breen; Recorder, Ann Jerabek

Academic Affairs—Chair, Debra Price; Recorder, Gene Young

Committee on Committees—Chair, Mary Lynn DeShazo; Recorder, Gerald Kohers

Future Business

James Van Roekel will be asked to come to the next Senate meeting in order to discuss the proposed changes to TSUS rules on faculty compensation for web course development and the suggested additions to faculty evaluation forms for online and technology-based courses.

Discussion on restructuring the College of Arts and Sciences was tabled until after faculty input at town meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Kandi Tayebi, chair-elect