University Committee on Faculty Affairs

MINUTES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005


Ex Officio: Robert Banks, David Byelich.

Others: John Revitte, Donna Zischke.

Call to Order: Chairperson Susan Melnick called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: The boilerplate agenda to be used for the 2004-05 meetings was approved at the August 31, 2004 meeting.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Dr. Mullaney, seconded by Dr. Sticklen, to approve the Minutes of January 18, 2005. The Minutes were approved as presented.

Dr. Whiren made a motion, seconded by Dr. Powell, to rearrange the order of the agenda to begin with Old Business. The motion passed.

Old Business:

- Dr. Brody made a motion to bring the “tabled motion” of the January 18 meeting back to the table; Dr. Posner seconded. The motion passed. Dr. Brody then restated the three points of the “Endorse” motion regarding the Esquith Report. This motion picked out language which Dr. Brody felt was valuable in highlighting the thrust of what he felt the Esquith Committee Report was really saying about the issue. Dr. Harrison stated that he “wanted to point out parenthetically that any move to reorganize the academic structure which in any way is perceived to downgrade liberal arts by the national community will almost certainly result in a withdrawal of our Phi Beta Kappa Chapter by the National. This would be an enormous blow to this university’s prestige as well as the ability to attract highly motivated, able students.” The motion passed unanimously.

- Dr. Brody made a motion, seconded by Dr. Teahan, to consider the “Non response” motion regarding the Esquith Report. This motion was written to explain why UCFA declined to respond to the “specific charge” and deadline of February 4 as transmitted from Professor Jon Sticklen, ECAC. After discussion, Dr. Harrison moved that the motion be amended by striking points #2, #3, and #4 and keeping what are called points #1 and #5 and changing point #5 and calling it point #2. Dr. Corser supported the motion. The vote was: “yes” – 8; “no” – 5; “abstention” – 1 on the motion being amended. The vote on the motion as amended was “yes” – 13; “no” – 0; “abstention” – 1. Dr. Melnick called for the vote on the motion, as amended, and the vote was “yes” - 13 and “abstention” – 1.
New Business: 
- Dr. Bresnahan made a motion to endorse the ten principles proposed by the University Committee on Faculty Tenure (UCFT) on January 21, 2005 that have been offered to help ensure that fixed term faculty and specialists will have benefit of the full economic and academic freedom protection afforded faculty with tenure system appointments. Dr. Sticklen supported the motion. The ensuing discussion revealed an overall reluctance to support the motion. The vote was “yes”-0; “no” -13; “absention”-1. Dr. Bresnahan made a motion that the document be returned to UCFT with recommendations that the UCFA Personnel Policy Subcommittee feels are issues and problems that need to be addressed before UCFA can or would support it. The motion was supported by Dr. Brody. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements: 
- Dr. Melnick asked for a volunteer to attend Academic Council to represent UCFA at the meeting. Dr. Teahan volunteered to attend representing UCFA.
- Dr. Melnick stated that it will be very helpful for the co-chairs to reorganize and share some of the responsibilities involved with keeping UCFA current on campus responsibilities and activities.
- Dr. Melnick reminded UCFA that the Faculty Voice Committee will attend this meeting next Tuesday. They will speak with UCFA members and get their viewpoints on faculty governance on campus. The Faculty Voice Committee will hold their next meeting on Thursday, January 27, at 5:30-7:00 p.m. in room 306 Natural Resources. Please encourage colleagues to attend.
- David Byelich spoke briefly about the current state and university budget outlook, and, at this point, it appears that there won’t be an Executive Order this year.

Subcommittee Reports: 
- **Budget**: Shawnee Vickery, Chair. Dr. Vickery distributed copies of her thank-you letter to President Simon on behalf of the UCFA Budget Subcommittee for her support in obtaining the Long-Term Care Insurance program. She also stated that Rene Rivard had shared with her that as of the beginning of the week, about 502 had enrolled in the Long-Term Care Insurance program. That is a little higher than had been expected.
- **Personnel Policy**: Mary Bresnahan, Chair. (Dr. Bresnahan’s subcommittee activities were covered in the Old and New Business at the beginning of the meeting.)

Dr. Brody made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Dr. Powell supported.

Adjournment: UCFA adjourned to subcommittees at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elva Boyles
Recording Secretary