Faculty Senate Minutes
September 14, 2015

Call to Order: Heath Hornecker called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call:
  Business and Industry:
    Jeff Morris  Present
    Glen Roberts  Present
    Liz Ott  Present
  Continuing Education:
    Sue Sigler  Present
  Educational Resources:
    Beth Floyd  Present
  Fine Arts and Humanities:
    Jennifer Cowell  Excused
    Nathan Baker  Present
    Charles Ewing  Present
  Health Science:
    Mike Moline  Present
    Heidi Loucks  Present
    Russ Christiansen  Present
  Science:
    Jacob McIntyre  Present
    Melissa Connely  Present
    Heath Hornecker  Present
  Social and Behavioral Sciences:
    Erich Frankland  Present
    Art Washut  Present
    Gretchen Wheeler  Present

Approval of Minutes 5/11: Gretchen asked a question about the minutes. Mel believed that more details of discussion would have been nice, and had a question as to what the original motion regarding load policy was so that we can properly untable it; we tabled the motion to approve the terms and definitions from the revised document. Russ moved to approve minutes as amended, Russ seconded. Minutes passed.

Treasurer’s Report:  Not quite $5029 Savings
Almost $1320 Checking
52 paid members

Chair Reports:
  Board of Trustees summer meetings: Incredibly dull, aside from a tornado warning
College Council: Also unexciting, mostly approving second reading of policies out for feedback

Management Council: Mike sent report via email; some rumors around early retirement and the board.

Dr. Powell: Mike and Heath met on Friday, meeting cut short by a fire alarm. Presented draft agenda, discussed agenda items, asked if he had anything for us to talk about. He emailed us the deans’ request.

Dr. Powell & Dr. Divine: Mike, Heath, and Jake met regarding CCW; also discussed early retirement, load, and our degree hours.

Committee Reports:
Curriculum Committee: Has not met yet

Faculty Development Grants: Two requests; Liz moved to approve the requests, Erich seconded. Some discussion about what happens with leftover funds as we reach the spring semester. Motion passed, with Nathan abstaining.

Unfinished Business:
   a. Complete College Wyoming update—Jake: Met with Dr. Divine, brought him up to speed, distinguishing between CCA ideas and CCW ideas. CCA seems more political, CCW is more interested in metrics (unrelated to performance-based funding) and institutional-specific strategies. First round of data coming in a month or so, conference in Casper on Wednesday 10/28, hoping for state legislators to show up. If we don’t do something proactively, legislators might come in and tell us what to do. Governor Mead met with CCW people this summer and was very encouraged and supportive. Clarification that CCW has nothing to do with 60-hour degree limits; that comes from CCA and UW. Western and CC are the only two colleges still holding out at 64. Some discussion about 60-credit degrees and cutting course requirements followed.
   b. Higher Education Summit, Jackson—Erich: Some money went unspent and was returned to VP office. Nearly all colleges represented, except for Eastern. Items discussed included: wave of retirements; relationship with the legislature (two senators and one rep were present); USP and 2+2 agreements; statewide faculty survey done back in 2001, reauthorized to broaden to the other two alliances; emphasis on collaborative articulation around the state; Dr. Divine agreed to host the next summit, TBA.
   c. Load: Tabled in May, needs a majority vote to remove from table. Nathan moved to untable the motion from May, seconded by Jake. Motion to untable passed. Mel described the changes made to the document requested by Senate; definitions and understanding of what comprises load remained. Heath: Policy Committee did mention that they would like to look at load this year. Erich: A common set of orderly definitions would allow us to proactively help the administration and perhaps nip major changes in the bud. Gretchen asked some questions about wording. Mike expressed concerns about implications of “to be determined.” Art: Should we send something before Policy Committee gets started, or should we wait
until feedback is requested? Mike: It might be more difficult to be as involved as we would like if we wait. Mel: Also, many documents recommend that this type of thing be faculty-initiated/faculty-driven, and the document represents the perspectives of many departments around campus. Nathan: Policy Committee would most likely greatly appreciate definitions of faculty load, as non-faculty were quite confused by our hours when writing the full-time/part-time definition policy. Mike proposed an amendment that section 7.1.1 be clarified to read “To be determined,” with other “To be determined” clauses remaining as printed (in red); Mel seconded. Amendment passed. Motion passed. Mel expressed a willingness to come to Policy Committee meetings, etc., and explain/clarify anything further.

New Business:

a. Deans Evaluation: We have been invited to be part of the discussion.

b. WACCT Nominee: Committee should be formed to select nominee in October from the Rosenthal winners, allowing plenty of time to fill out and submit the application.

c. IT Resolution: Health Science program directors met and would like something to be done about IT issues, as much frustration seems to exist. They hope the Senate might gather data and draft a resolution pertaining to IT issues. Mel notes that there have also been nothing but issues in GIS, with items gone and software missing, etc. Liz notes wifi problems. Erich suggested we solicit our respective schools and bring back their concerns; Heath requested that we bullet-point our concerns, create a list, and discuss it further in October; please email concerns and info to Heath by October 5th.

d. Early Retirement Discussion: After the back-to-school Alliance meeting, it was apparent that there was a lot of frustration and concern. Executive Committee drafted a letter after discussing the matter and meeting with Dr. Divine and Dr. Powell. If approved, the letter would be delivered in October. Gretchen reminded us that the board does not consider early retirement to be part of our benefits package, nor does the policy cover it as such, so we should strike that phrase from the letter. Russ moved to accept the draft letter as a starting point, seconded by Mel. Jake suggested we emphasize the cost-cutting portions and agreed that we should avoid entitlement language. Nathan strongly expressed his disappointment with the timing and effect of the board’s choice to summarily dismiss a couple of years of work and thanked the Executive Committee for drafting this letter. Motion passed. Mel moved to form a committee to revise the letter with Erich, Gretchen seconded. Motion passed.

e. Deans’ Request: Heath suggested that we form a committee to examine these issues. Nathan moved we form a committee to discuss the questions presented in the memo; Mike seconded. Nominate committee members via email to be confirmed in October; one per school suggested. Beth volunteered to research what is happening at other schools. Motion passed.

General Faculty Comments: Sabbatical applications due November 6th. Policy Committee will be revisiting the facilities use policy. Dr. Divine said there would be
faculty representation on the strategic plan and enrollment strategic plan committees.

**Meeting Adjournment:** Heath adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Nathan Baker