

FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

11:30 a.m., Science 102

1. Call to order and roll call at 11:31.

Senators absent: Culver, Hammer, Hay, Hildreth, Johnson, Olsen, Quinn, Scott, Youngberg, Coussens, Jakielski, Rayapati, Schroeder, Warren.

Senators excused: McDowell, Stone, Nabhan-Warren, Cleveland, Kaul, Todd, van Howe, Rogal.

2. Approval of minutes from the April 15, 2010 senate meeting. Moved by Varallo, seconded by Ellis. Bengtson asked that his remark be stricken since it's not clear from context just what he meant. The minutes were approved as amended.

3. Motions and reports.

The consent agenda is considered approved.

- IP Grade for HONR 330
- Asian Studies Course Revisions
- Asian Studies Major & Minor Changes
- Math & Teaching Math Majors Changes
- New Course: HIST 190 [PP]: The History Field School
- New Course: LSC 201: Rhetoric and Liberal Arts for Transfer Students
- Learning Community: Addressing Social Issues [Hay/Croll]
COMM 384: Action Research Module
SOCI 206: Contemporary Social Issues

Representing Nomination and Rules, Varallo presented a motion with the slate of committee assignments for 2010-11. The motion was seconded. Varallo explained that 90 people responded to the survey; Nominations and Rules tried to consider the level of interest that respondents indicated as well as the kind of representation that various committees needed. Not all committees currently have open seats but some may have openings in the course of the year. The motion carried.

Fowler brought a motion from AS&D which includes the list of 2010 graduates. Hyser seconded. Fowler pointed out that the percentage of students graduating with honors was about the same as usual; typically the rate is 30-33%. The motion carried.

Crowe introduced a motion from EPC on behalf of the Business Administration department, a revision of the concentration in MIS which normally would have been on the consent agenda due to its uncontroversial nature. Dungan seconded the motion.

Van Sandt explained that the concentration in MIS will be reduced from six to three courses, bringing it in line with other concentrations. The dropped courses are in computer programming, as these functions have already moved offshore, according to the report of a consultant. The change brings this department's requirements in line with industry standards. The motion carried.

Chris Vaughn introduced a campus online portal system. The high-level goal is to increase satisfaction for all users, make access to campus resources more ubiquitous and intuitive. The goal is to create a single campus desktop for students, professors, and alumni. It would link to various email programs, and the calendar system would make it easier to find information. Social networking such as Facebook would be embedded. The portal would be platform independent and would work with desktop computers, smart devices, etc. The portal system consists of small segments, called portlets, that are pieces that fit into a larger whole. The system is very personalizable and allows users to remove sections that they do not want, though some sections cannot be removed because they are institutional message portlets. He compared a portal to the campus website: while our webpage looks the same for each visitor, each person's portal could look somewhat different based on their preferences and needs. The goal is to ease finding resources on campus, making available in one place information and applications that are currently found in many locations, such as Moodle, Mahara, Public Folders, the S: drive, Web Advisor, etc. The portal also allows for a single sign-in to many different applications. A portal would facilitate digital collaboration; committees could store minutes and various drafts of documents in one central place permanently. The same is true for student clubs and classes. Vaughn showed examples of portals in use at Bowdoin, Cornell, and Wooster and demonstrated different layouts and the ease of customize one's portal. ITS is currently researching available applications to determine what fits best with Augustana's usage. They want to be delicate to make sure that whatever is chosen continues to be useful in the future, since technology changes so fast. ITS is currently developing interest groups to determine audiences and set priorities.

Hyser asked if there would be restrictions on what users can access from home, e.g. on the O: drive.

Vaughn said that users will be able to access the new equivalent of O: drive from home or anywhere.

Mahn asked if users will still be able to access programs independently of the portal as well.

Vaughn said that ITS would encourage people to use the same avenue to access programs because there is benefit in being able to communicate to everyone, for example, in an emergency; however, access outside the portal would probably not be restricted.

Mahn pointed out that there is some value in opening one application and doing it, to reduce distractions.

Vaughn responded that even with the portal, users can still focus on one application at a time.

Hill spoke about his proposal regarding the status of part-time and adjunct instructors; a handout had been distributed the previous week. He argued that nationwide the situation of part-time and adjunct instructors was becoming more serious. Such instructors are interested in rank, status, academic participation and support and don't currently have effective representation. Hill did not discuss financial compensation in his document but instead dealt with those things that can be done without spending money.

He countered objections to his proposals. Some say that the welfare of the regular faculty has to come first; Hill says of course that's true. Others express concern about non-instructional staff, which he agrees with. The problem, as he sees it, is that adjunct are lumped with regular faculty but don't have same advantages as them. What he recommends costs nothing but makes certain concessions with respect to rank and committee membership. It provides a mini sabbatical which would support research. Adjunct and part-time faculty should be treated as if they were among us and part of us as far as possible. The dean search committee did not include part-time and adjunct instructors, nor did the task force on workload. We need to give these people some visibility. He first became aware of the disparity in treatment of adjuncts because of his wife and her position with the college. However, both he and his wife are close to retirement, so this proposal is not for them but for future generations. Such disparities cannot go on when adjunct and part time are nationwide teaching over 50% of sections; they are an exploited majority. Augustana doesn't exploit people as badly as some other institutions, but it's not much of an argument to say that others are worse. His proposal provides a certain status to people who don't have it. His proposal is a way for Augustana to get out ahead on the issue, and it would be just. This is something requires action, and it's action that costs nothing. Hill plans to present his proposal to the full faculty next year.

Kramer asked if some of privileges are intended only for long-term adjuncts.

Hill said that is not necessarily true, though he suggests including people who are at Augustana for several years, not people who teach just one class and move on.

Kramer asked how many people would be affected.

Abernathy said about 14-15 adjuncts are currently employed; and adjunct teaches 14 hours and over.

Gillette wondered if that number was a low estimate.

Abernathy said that there about 14-15 adjuncts who teach 14-20 credit hours.

Hill pointed out that he proposes to cover adjuncts and part time instructors who are teaching routinely, which would be more than 14, which Abernathy confirmed.

Day asked for clarification about the promotion calendar. It looks like an assistant professor would be promoted in 5 years, which is before tenure-track professors are promoted.

Hill explained that he wanted to give part-time faculty the best and most expeditious promotion schedule; their perspective isn't the same as regular faculty members.

Day asked about the condition that adjunct faculty receive paid leave under the condition that they not teach elsewhere either. This seems very difficult to do since many part-time and adjunct instructors have to piece jobs together to survive.

Hill acknowledged that this is true and said that he wanted to make the leave as comparable to tenure-track sabbatical as possible.

Jensen asked if there would be some sort of review process for promotion.

Hill suggested that the promotion process doesn't take that long now; it's all but automatic. This would have same kind of status: promotion would require the recommendation of the department chair and approval of dean, and Faculty Welfare could consider cases if necessary.

Hay commend Hill for thinking through this but expressed concern that faculty might help part-time instructors at the expense of junior tenure-track colleagues; the election of part-timers to committees means competing for committees with junior faculty.

Hill said he is not concerned, since committee members have to be elected by faculty. It's true that there would be extra people in competition with junior faculty. We could also have an adjunct category but he believes that part-time instructors should be as much as possible like the rest of us and he thinks the damage done to junior faculty is nil.

Hay expressed concern with replacing on committees someone who's here full time with someone who's here 8 hours a week.

Hill countered that he did not think divisions would do that.

Goebel reported that the curriculum change task force had its final meeting that morning. New members are being selected by EPC and General Education. The two groups will meet over wine and cheese during finals week before the new group takes over.

Crowe reminded senators of the first meeting of the new senate at 11:30, on Tuesday, May 11 in Science 304.

4. Adjournment by acclaim at 12:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Seidlitz