

Augustana College

Rock Island, IL

**MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
January 9, 2013
John Deere Lecture Hall
4:00 PM**

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Randy Hengst. Roll call was taken by Virginia Johnson.

Members unable to attend: David Arbesú, Amanda Baugous, Lendol Calder, Jeff Coussens, Bohdan Dziadyk, Rob Elflin, Jon Hurty, Mariano Magalhães, Araceli Masterson, Norm Moline, Doug Parvin, Mike Schroeder, Lori Scott, Heidi Storl, Jim van Howe, Mike Wolf, Sangeetha Rayapati

Members excused: Tom Bengtson, Greg Dowski, Mike Egan, Cathy Goebel, Ian Harrington, Reuben Heine, Chuck Hyser, Kathy Jakielski, Taddy Kalas, Brian Katz, Joe McDowell, John Pfautz, Marsha Smith, Michael Zemek

2. **Motion “To approve the minutes from the November 26, 2012 Faculty Senate meeting.”**
MOTION CARRIED

3. **Approval of Consent Agenda**

Motion to approve the following from EPC:

- **New Course: LSFY 102: From Monster to Miracle [Skrainka]**
- **Suffix Request [G] WLIT 219: Hispanic Literature in Translation [Arbesú]**
- **New Course: FREN 350: Language as Art: The Story of French [Skrainka]**
- **New Course: EDUC 182: Strategic Reading [Hanson]**
- **New Course with Learning Perspective [PL] CLAS 365: Angels & Demons—Paganism and Christianity in the Literature of Late Antiquity [Hooker]**
- **New Course: CLAS 240: Women in Ancient Greece [Day] – Note: Drop CLAS 230**
- **New Course: CLAS 340 with Suffix [G]: Women in Rome [Day] – Note: Drop CLAS 230**
- **New Course: BUSN 191: Professional Skills Development [Baugous]**
- **New Course: GEOL 106: Earthquakes, Tsunamis and Eruptions in Asia: Living and Dying on Geologically Active Plate Boundaries [Wolf]. Fall 2013-2014 Asia Term.**
- **New Course: LSFY 102: From Job to Gregory House, M.D. [McCray]**
- **New Course: LSFY 103: The Rhetoric of Social Justice Movements [McCray]**
- **Suffix Request [D] SOC 330: Immigrants: Beyond a Border [Kivisto]**
- **Sociology, Anthropology & Social Welfare Major (including Sociology concentration in Social Welfare) Revision**
- **Economics Department Senior Inquiry Proposal**
- **Summer 2014 Academic Calendar**

MOTION CARRIED

4. Motions from EPC

4.1 **“To approve Program Proposal for German Studies and Scandinavian Studies.”**

Discussion: Dave Dehnel applauded faculty from the two programs for responding creatively to challenges their departments faced in order to maintain Scandinavian Studies and German Studies as part of the College’s curriculum. The proposal is impressive and he is intrigued by the structure of the second-year language courses; however, Dave Dehnel offered advice that development of the 300-level English language courses be done incrementally, starting with fewer of them then building up; particularly begin with courses that are closer to the instructors’ expertise. His concern is that culture studies has the potential (not in this case, however) of being all things to all people and the potential danger of degrading the quality of intellectual content.

Dave Hill asked if it is known with sufficient precision what the challenges or difficulties were that the Scandinavian and German departments faced. He asked if these challenges would potentially be extended to other departments that are faced with a similar situation. Pareena Lawrence indicated that conversations between the two departments and administration were situational conversations that occurred over a six-year period. There are no principles that came out of these discussions that would be applied to other cases.

MOTION CARRIED

4.2 **Motion-Nominations and Rules Committee**

“To reestablish the Student Publications Board and confirm the membership of the faculty appointments (Ellen Hay, Dell Jensen, and Kelvin Mason).”

Discussion: Jayne Rose explained that the Student Publications Board Committee was disbanded in 2011-2012 as recommended by the Committee on Committees. In hindsight, that recommendation should have been more thoroughly reviewed. The current Observer editor-in-chief graduates the end of winter term 2012-2013. The Observer staff is currently faced with the need to hire a new student editor and there is no process in place for doing that due to the disbanding of the Student Publications Board. Nominations and Rules propose that the previous Student Publications Board, which in the past has been in charge of the hiring of the student editor of the Observer, be reestablished with the faculty representatives being Ellen Hay (2014), Dell Jensen (2014) and Kelvin Mason (2013) so that an established process can be followed.

Randy Hengst read a statement from Jacob Misener, the current editor-in-chief of the Observer, addressed to the Faculty Senate outlining his reasons for not supporting the reinstatement of the Student Publications Board:

- 1) The Augustana Observer is a student organization and has a constitution in place that dictates the proper procedure for selecting an editor-in-chief;
- 2) The former Student Publications Board members unanimously voted to eliminate the committee because it was not working;

- 3) Members of the Communication Studies Department are attempting to bypass the explicit policy of the Observer constitution dictating the selection of editor-in-chief in the following ways:
- a) by stating they would appoint a new editor-in-chief to replace the current editor-in-chief despite the fact that the Observer constitution does not give the department any power to do so
 - b) by attempting to restrict eligible candidates to seniors when no such restriction exists in the constitution
 - c) by using the position of Nominations and Rules Committee (Sharon Varallo) to quickly put together this proposed motion and present it to faculty senate to reinstate the Student Publications Board when neither the Communication Studies Department nor any other faculty members have the right to dictate how a student organization selects its members. This final action by the Communication Studies Department was done behind the backs of all staff editors of the Augustana Observer and was sprung on the editors on January 3rd, a few days before the Christmas holiday break ended.

Randy continued with the reading of a letter from SGA President, Cameron Onumah, addressed to the Faculty Senate in support of reinstating the Student Publications Board. Cameron stated the Board is imperative to maintaining the integrity and validity of the Augustana Observer among the Augustana student body. Moreover, SGA appropriates more funds for the Observer than any other student organization. Given the sizeable budget SGA approves for the paper, SGA feels it is appropriate to have marginal oversight of the paper via their presence on the Student Publications Board. Also noted in the letter was a conversation Cameron had with Jacob Misener in November, where Jacob indicated that he did not have any problem with the Student Publications Board being reinstated.

Wendy Hilton-Morrow responded to some of the blame contained in Jacob Misener's letter. When Stephanie Soebbing became the new advisor for the Observer, she made several inquiries about what process was in place to hire a new editor-in-chief. She received a copy of the constitution on 12-6-12. At that time it was not known by the Communication Studies Department that the constitution had not been brought to the Student Policy Committee for approval. In addition, the constitution was not developed with input from the Communication Studies Department, with the exception of Jim Dyer as advisor. Stephanie, Jacob and Wendy met to discuss how an interim editor would be selected. The process was agreed upon based on the reading of the constitution. However, at that time Stephanie was unaware that the constitution was not valid. The three of them left the meeting in agreement of how to proceed. Over the course of that week, Jake returned three different times uncomfortable with the situation and he proposed alternates that were then agreed upon by all, but he continued to come back uncomfortable with the decision, which indicated to Wendy that this was a very insular process. At that time, to avoid going back and forth between the Observer and the Communication Studies Department, Wendy felt it best to reinstate the Student Publications Board so that claims that the Communication Studies Department is attempting

to hire who they want to hire could no longer be made. If the Student Publications Board is reinstated, the Communication Studies Department has no say in this decision.

Several faculty senate members stated that they would like to see the Observer keep its autonomy. The senators discussed whether or not the Student Publications Board was required to seek Faculty Senate approval for hiring new editors for the Observer, and determined that it did not. Stephanie Soebbing commented that during her previous position as advisor to the Observer, the Observer staff did not find the Student Publications Board meddlesome at all and Observer staff never felt restricted in what they printed.

Since the Student Policy Committee does not meet until the last week of the term, there is not enough time for the Observer staff to put a constitution through the governance process before Jacob Misener graduates. Steve Klien commented that even though the Observer should be autonomous, he feels the oversight of the Observer should have more than students involved. Jason Mahn suggested that as a positive gesture, that Faculty Senate approve the reinstatement of the Student Publications Board on a temporary basis.

Motion-Mahn, Second-Crowe

“To amend the original motion to add that the Student Publications Board remain in existence until a new mechanism for hiring a new student editor of the Observer is developed and approved.”

MOTION TO AMEND THE ORIGINAL MOTION CARRIED

Discussion: In response to a question, Randy explained that Faculty Senate is not stipulating the specific mechanism that has to occur. Several senate members expressed their confidence that the Student Publications Board will ensure that an appropriate mechanism will result using established protocol for student group governance.

MOTION CARRIED TO APPROVE ORIGINAL MOTION AS AMENDED

4.3 Motion-Convocation Committee

“To approve the following Symposium Day schedule for 2013-14: Fall Term: October 3, 2013 (Thursday of week 6); Winter Term: January 20, 2014 (Monday of week 7 [Martin Luther King Day]); and Spring Term: May 7, 2014 (Wednesday of week 9).”

In response to a question, Kristin Douglas explained that the spring term Symposium Day is late in the term because it coincides with Celebration of Learning and seniors need most of the term to prepare their presentations. After ensuring that none of the proposed dates conflicted with religious holidays, a vote was taken.

MOTION CARRIED

5.0 Reports

5.1 Budget Committee

No verbal report given.

5.2 Facilities Planning Committee

No verbal report given.

5.3 Sustainability Committee

Jeff Strasser announced that a written report from the Sustainability Committee can be found on Moodle. He reported that the Sustainability Committee was formed out of the Environmental Task Force. The committee has been primarily inactive the last couple of years due to lack of a budget and some leadership issues. One recommendation made by the Environmental Task Force which was never approved was the hiring of a permanent, full-time sustainability coordinator for our college. Some of Augustana's peer institutions have people on their staff and administration that do this kind of work. At the last committee meeting, goals for the coming year were discussed.

5.4 Lectureship Position

Emil Kramer reported that his proposal for a Lectureship position at Augustana was sent to Department Chairs for review. It has been vetted by the Faculty Welfare Committee, which is supportive of the proposal. More details need to be worked out; for example, ensuring it corresponds with the motions approved last year for Adjunct and Part-time faculty positions. Emil indicated that Augustana College is one of a few institutions without a Lectureship position. It is a very common practice at many institutions. Creating this position should be a win-win result for the faculty involved, for departments, and for administration. The main concern brought to Emil's attention is that the proposal contains a limit on how many resource positions there may be (no more than one lectureship in a department of two or three faculty; and no more than a quarter of the faculty in a department of four or more faculty). This rule is in place for the departments' protection.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski
Department of Academic Affairs