

NAU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes Monday, April 4, 2005

Opening:

Senate President Larry Mohrweis called the meeting of the NAU Faculty Senate to order at 3:07 p.m. in the Liberal Studies building room 135.

Members Present: Sylvester Allred, T.S. Amer, Roger Bacon, Virginia Blankenship, Kathy Bohan, Joseph Boles, Jeff Carrico, Charles Connell, Bill Culbertson, William Gibson, Tara Green, Liz Grobsmith, Kelley Hays-Gilpin, Denise Helm, Emily Hill, Gloria Horning, Gae Johnson, Chris Lanterman, Rich Lei, Barry Lutz, Rich McNeill, Janet McShane, Larry Mohrweis, Cecilia Ojeda, Lon Owen, Mary Reid, Jon Reyner, Blase Scarnati, Karen Sealander, Sandra Stone, Laura Umphrey and Marsha Yowell.

Members Excused: Minnie Andrews, Tom Brunell, Marge Conger, Dan Cothran, Jim Davis, Susan Deeds, Mary Dereshiwsy, Joel DiBartolo, Sally Doshier, Jack Dustman, Marcus Ford, Angie Golden, Max Jerrell, Dave, McKell, Wilbert Odem, Michael Ort, Nancy Paxton, Jim Pinto, Nando Schellen, David Sherry and Tom Waters.

Others Present: Kathy Cruz-Uribe, Patricia Haeuser, Susanna Maxwell, Patty Moore, Ron Pitt and Karen Pugliesi.

Acceptance of Minutes/Agenda: Senate President Larry Mohrweis asked for an approval of the minutes from the February 21, 2005 meeting. **Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion Passed.** Senate President Larry Mohrweis asked for an approval of the agenda. **Motion made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion Passed.**

Opening Comments - Senate President: Senate President Larry Mohrweis said Vice President Marcus Ford is currently in China and will not be present. He will be returning on April 12th.

Senator Virginia Blankenship, Chair of the Liberal Studies Review Committee announced that there will be an open forum on Thursday, April 28, 2005 from 3:00pm – 5:00pm in the Student Union Walnut Room. The committee is asking for input from faculty on UC101 and other liberal studies changes. An invitation will be sent out shortly and everyone is welcome.

President Larry Mohrweis said that one of the big issues is HB 2079 that allows community college districts to offer four-year baccalaureate degrees. http://www.azleg.state.az.us/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=HB2079

System Redesign: Dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences Kathy Cruz-Uribe and Associate Vice President of Planning and Institutional Research Pat Haeuser gave an update about the system redesign. The March Faculty Senate meeting was canceled and since then a public forum was held to discuss the issue on March 17.

<http://www4.nau.edu/facultysenate/content/documents/ABOR%202-22%20draft%20resp%20final%203-10-05.doc>

The response handout is a consensus of the five suggested changes that addresses NAU's research mission, differential tuition, and the cost of an undergraduate education was forwarded to Mary Jo Waits. A meeting is scheduled for April 14th. Secretary Rich Lei asked if HB 2079 would change the response to the proposal and Kathy answered no. Senator Thom Alcoze asked if NAU expects competition if HB 2079 passes and the floor was given to NAU President Haeger.

NAU President John Haeger commented that HB 2079 is not expected to impact the system redesign. We have to acknowledge that if it doesn't pass, it will be proposed every year. In any case, NAU has to come to terms that we will have a relationship with the community colleges. NAU has to reposition itself for the future because its possible that there will be two systems of education. If HB 2079 does pass, there will be a small number of community colleges that will offer 4 year degrees. NAU will have to revise agreements and renegotiate agreements with ABOR. Articulation agreements with the Higher Education Commission will also have to be revised. He said that Governor Napolitano has some big decisions to make this year.

Proposed Response to ABOR: Past President Chuck Connell asked the Senate to endorse the formal resolution for the ABOR Work Group on System Redesign Proposal of February 23. **A motion was made to endorse the resolution. Motion seconded. Motion passed.**

http://www4.nau.edu/facultysenate/content/documents/ResolutionABOR04_04_05.doc

COFS Rewrite: Vice Provost Susanna Maxwell presented an update of the Condition of Faculty Service [COFS] rewrite. A memo summarizing the process and timeline was distributed.

http://www4.nau.edu/facultysenate/content/documents/04_04COFS%20memo%20to%20Senate%20April%204.pdf

The process consists of two phases: 1) Clean up the document and bring it up to date 2) Make changes. She said cleaning up the documents will make it easier to work with when making changes. An electronic version of the timeline and summary of edits will be sent out April 18th and will be discussed at the April 25th Faculty Senate meeting and final edits will be voted on at the May 2nd meeting. Susanna passed out a handout on COFS and the structure of the Faculty Handbook

http://www4.nau.edu/facultysenate/content/documents/04_04FACULTY%20HANDBOOK%20PRIMER.pdf

Publishing of Grades by Courses: Associate Provost of Academic Administration Ron Pitt said NAU, along with ASU and the U of A, received in early February a request from the Arizona Republic to provide information on grades. He explained that all three universities will be providing this data. Pick-A-Prof is a business enterprise that, among other initiatives, acquires this data from universities and then sells it back to the student government so that students can access the grade distributions, and other information, when selecting a faculty member for a course. Given that grade distributions are considered public information, it has been decided that this information will be released not only to Pick-a-Prof but also to the entire NAU faculty and to ASNAU. Since this information is public, there is no reason why our students should have to pay for it. A faculty member expressed concern about course evaluations and Dr. Pitt assured them that course evaluations are not public information.

The report is available at <http://www4.nau.edu/pair/EnrollmentDegree/PickAProfFall2004F-NAU.xls>

Nomination & Election Process: Senate Parliamentarian Roger Bacon asked for nominations for Senate officers, At-Large members and the Nomination & Election committee. The nomination ballot is available at

http://www4.nau.edu/facultysenate/content/documents/2005_06FSOfficersNomBallot.pdf

Ballots must be received by the Senate Office by April 15th at 5:00pm.

Comments from the Provost:

- Provost Grobsmith said the proposed increase in course fees will be on the agenda at the April ABOR meeting. New fees will take effect July 1, 2005.
- Provost Grobsmith expects the proposal for a new major in Environmental Studies to be approved for planning by ABOR in May. Feedback has been positive and she doesn't anticipate any problems.
- Steve Wright, John Leung and Provost Grobsmith recently returned from a trip to China and had an amazing experience. They signed a second agreement to allow faculty from Chinese universities to visit NAU for the fall semester. 16 Chinese faculty will participate in fall 2005 and 16 in spring 2005. They will be housed in Pine Ridge campus housing. The Chinese faculties originate from a variety of disciplines and are very excited about coming to NAU. This is anticipated to be an ongoing arrangement. The Chinese universities are paying the entire bill for their faculty to participate in the exchange.
- Dean and chairs will be asking faculties to identify a mentor for each of the visiting Chinese Instructors. Each mentor will be given a stipend of \$2000 dollars to devote a considerable amount of time to assist the visiting Chinese faculty to help them make their adjustment. Departments hosting the visiting faculty will receive a \$500 dollar stipend.
- Provost Grobsmith commented that there is a large interest for NAU faculty to visit the Chinese universities and teach for a year. Any faculty member who is interested in going to China and teaching their specific discipline in English should contact the Provost. Replacements will be made for traveling faculty.
- The trip to China also served to secure the 1+2+1 program. Chinese students will complete their freshman year at one of the Chinese partner universities. In the second and third year of the program, the students will travel to the United States to complete their sophomore and junior years at NAU. The students will return to China to for their fourth year, earning dual degrees from NAU and their home university. So far there are 17 applicants and the Provost is working on getting them accommodated for the fall semester.
- The North Central Accreditation [NCA] steering committee met for the first time today. Mary Reid is the Senate representative on the committee and will be a standing item on the Senate agenda. She will be providing updates to the Senate on the process.
- Senate Secretary Rich Lei asked the Provost where faculty stands on summer salaries. Provost Grobsmith responded that until we have a clear signal from the Governor and the campus about compensation for the coming year, it would be impossible to commit to exactly what the compensation would be for summer. Secretary Lei asked if the Provost expected salary increases for the summer and she responded she didn't know which way it was going to go and said she would let President Haeger respond to that question.

Comments from the President:

- President Haeger said he has no information yet on summer school salaries.
- NAU plans to be active in recruiting international as well as domestic students. Europe, Australia and New Zealand have been recruiting outside their countries for a period of time.

- President Haeger is leaving for Washington tomorrow to deal with visa issues, particularly with Beijing.
- As far as the issue with community colleges are concerned. Other than letters from the three university Presidents, there has been no opposition to HB 2079. The strategy for this is our stance is no compromise to the bill. The universities do not want to create a situation where they cannot sit down our community colleges colleagues and work out the future of Arizona. If Governor Napolitano should veto the bill then a study committee would be assembled that would look at the issue for the next legislative session. There will be a next step in this whole process.
- President Haeger said concerning the budget, at the moment he has no information about our two principal income streams: next year's enrollment (tuition) which is 35% of our budget and the state budget which makes up the other 41%. He did confirm that none of our major priorities made it through the Senate or the House; this is true of all three universities and this includes faculty salaries. The only gainer is about \$4 million dollars going to ASU for enrollment growth. The legislature is sending a strong message that the universities are not the "darlings of the legislature" this year. Maybe this is because we virtually got everything we wanted last year. The Governor negotiating a long list of items with the legislature and on that list is faculty salaries. President Haeger has no idea how that will go. It's safe to say that this year the budget will be tighter in comparison to the last two years. Faculty and staff salaries remain his highest priority. He can not make a commitment at this point and will let everything play out.
- President Haeger is working on master list of contracts and they will go out without a *statement* of salary increase. Increases cannot be made at this time.

Announcements & Future Agenda Items:

- The Student Media COMplex at NAU will be having open house on April 7th from 6:00pm – 9:00pm. This will be held in the Communication Building, first floor.
- Senate Parliamentarian Roger Bacon proposed a resolution commending the Administration on the compensation policy change for classified staff salaries. http://www4.nau.edu/facultysenate/content/documents/04_04_05resolution_staff_salaries.pdf Information on the policy change is at <http://hr.nau.edu/m/content/view/528/444/>
- There are 7 applicants for the Faculty Senate Scholarship. Two scholarships of \$500 dollars will be awarded. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will review applications and announce recipients at the April 25th meeting. Recipients will be asked to attend the May 2nd meeting.
- University Faculty Meeting for Promotion & Tenure will be held Monday, April 18th in Ashurst Auditorium, 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m. The next meeting will be from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 25, 2005 in the Student Union/Kaibab room.