

# Minutes for Faculty Senate meeting

## 3 PM Friday, November 14, 2008

### Board Room, David Student Union

Senators present: Brash, Mollick, Carlson, Duskin, McMahon, Brunke, Guajardo, French, Underwood, Xu (arrives at 4:12), Rahim, Frucot, Wheeler, Lambert  
Senators absent: Filetti

- I. The meeting was called to Order at 3:06.
- II. Introduction of Guests: Valerie Cheeseman, director of sponsored programs
- III. Approval of minutes of Faculty Senate meetings  
Approve minutes for [October 3 meeting](#) and [October 10 meeting](#)

Correction of [September](#) minutes Vice Provost Schwarze reported that part of the minutes are not correct. VII.A says: "There was some discussion that the process on the provost's web page does not seem to be the process that was followed. Instead, this year, the provost's office nominated all faculty." Outstanding Faculty Award nominees are those who are nominated for the CNU Alumni Society Award for Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring. The criteria for that award are on the provost's web site at:

[http://provost.cnu.edu/documents/as\\_award\\_for\\_excellence.pdf](http://provost.cnu.edu/documents/as_award_for_excellence.pdf). This year, there were three faculty nominated via that process, but there are 4 allowed to be forwarded to the state (3 regular nominations and 1 rising star). Thus, the provost's office added one name, not all of them.

**Action** Change minutes to read "There was some confusion about the process of how faculty become outstanding faculty award nominees" from "the provost's web page does not seem to be the process that was followed. Instead, this year, the provost's office nominated all faculty."  
**Unanimously approved.** September minutes have been changed.

To accommodate the interests of our guest, the senate agreed to take Old Business next, out of order. The discussion is included there.

#### IV. [President's Report](#)

Some items that were discussed include:

The 09-10 Spring semester will start a week before Martin Luther King day. Graduation will be a week after Mother's Day as it is now, which means that there will be 2 weeks between the end of exams and graduation. There will also be no more J-term.

The University Eval-4 task force held a university-wide meeting to present their initial model. 69 faculty members were there. The task force welcomes responses from chairs and individuals by Monday, November 24, and by December 1 at the latest.

## V. Committee Reports

- A. Faculty Development Grant recommendations (Brunke): Senators Lambert and Guajardo move to go into closed session at 4:00. Come out of closed session at 4:03. Senators Brash and Guajardo move to accept recommendations of the committee. All in favor: **unanimous**.
- B. Academic Task Force (Carlson): will meet Monday, Monday, November 17. This might be the task force's last meeting. The provost has met with faculty in a plenary group. The committee is looking to avoid causing pain in terms of faculty lines and pay. They are considering creating efficiencies by cutting back on future faculty, adjuncts and by increasing class size. Senators discussed the impact that has already been felt. It is difficult to register for classes this semester. Students are frustrated with having so few classes available. There are also not enough classrooms to fit the larger classes. Senators worried that we would not be able to advertise small classes, but others responded that our class sizes are still small compared to schools with hundreds of students in large lectures.
- C. Department Liaison Reports:
  - 1. Sociology/Anthropology (Carlson): Senator Carlson visited the Sociology and Anthropology department.
  - 2. Leadership and American Studies (McMahon): Be on lookout for civic engagement and social entrepreneurship.
- D. Eval-4 Task Force (Wheeler): President Wheeler reiterated her comment from the president's report that the committee is looking for feedback from chairs and individuals. Their recommendation will be presented at the December senate meeting.
- E. Campus Security Committee (Carlson): Faculty are encouraged to attend the one hour emergency preparedness training given on the first Tuesday of every month in HR. Or, faculty can take several 10-minute online courses available at [cnualert.com](http://cnualert.com) Posters telling faculty what to do in the case of an emergency are being added to every classroom. 155 phones

have been placed in buildings and every classroom.

The agenda continued on to New Business since Old Business had been considered earlier.

## VI. Old business

- A. [Student Pay process](#) (Lambert): Senator Lambert reported that HR Director Gallaer has agreed that graduate students may be paid with a research stipend, but undergraduate students must be paid hourly to ensure compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act. The problem with the hourly system is that supervisors have a very short time frame to approve student work. If the faculty member is away from email on that day, the student does not get paid. A new supervisor can be named, but that process is cumbersome for both the student and faculty member. President Wheeler appointed Senator Brash to talk to Vice Provost Tracey Schwarze about streamlining the system so that students who aren't paid are flagged.
- B. Establishing a Senate committee to examine costs and revenue at CNU. Senators discussed whether the senate should have a subcommittee to examine costs. The advantages of a senate committee are that it would have a faculty perspective and would be a good way to link the faculty's views with the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC); the biggest advantage of a senate committee is that discussion would be open, unlike BAC and the Academic Task Force. Senators, however, felt that the committee was redundant, that faculty do not have expertise in this area, that it might not be effective, and that we're already represented on the BAC and the Academic Task Force, the two similar committees. Because there was **no motion for committee formation**, this topic died.

The agenda continued from Old Business to the President's report.

## VII. New business

- A. Douglas Gordon [emeritus](#) consideration. There was some discussion about how the Faculty Senate can vote on a resolution with the wording "**Resolved** that the Department of English hereby requests" rather than the "the Faculty Senate hereby requests ..." President Wheeler suggested that the resolution be modified to be consistent with the wording of past emeriti resolutions. Nevertheless, the faculty senate voted on whether they approved emeritus status for Dean Gordon. The senate **unanimously** approved emeritus status.
- B. Curriculum Committee Recommendations
  - 1. Economics BA

## 2. English

There was discussion about whether a new program should be approved given the provost's recommendation to minimize new programs due to budget cuts. There was also discussion about whether we should have a subcommittee to discuss these. It was decided that there should be. President Wheeler appointed Senators Brash and French to work on the Economics BA, and Senators Mollick and Underwood to work on the English program committee.

- C. Commencement without graduation policy. There was a vigorous discussion about whether to allow students to walk without completing all graduation requirements. The advantage of restricting students from walking is that all students who walk across the stage will have completed all requirements for graduation. The disadvantage is that students may miss graduation through no fault of their own (e.g., an instructor does not enter a grade), because they have a summer internship that completes their graduation requirements, or because they have narrowly missed the graduation requirement. In this last case, faculty and chairs can be pressured to change graduation requirements in order to allow students to walk since the requirements that they're missing are so minimal. Although some senators felt that allowing students to graduate without fulfilling all graduation requirements weakens the importance of the ceremony, other senators felt that allowing this strengthens the rigor of a CNU degree. Senators then decided that the Undergraduate Degrees Committee (UDC) should hear appeals to allow students to walk without having graduated. There was a question about whether the UDC will meet, but senators felt that it would.

Senators Duskin and Carlson move that students who are no more than one course (which may have an associated lab) shy of fulfilling all degree requirements, be allowed to petition the UDC for permission to participate in commencement ceremonies. **Vote in favor: Unanimous.**

- D. [Underload](#) Catalog Change. Currently, students must be full time unless they receive special permission to be part time. The Undergraduate Academic Status Committee (UASC) suggests that we remove part time status from the catalog, and the special permission required. Students are expected to be full time, but that is up to the students' discretion. Discussion included ensuring that students understand that part-time

status endangers not only financial aid (currently in the wording) but also health insurance (not currently in the wording). Senators Brash and McMahon move to approve the wording by the UASC with the addition of "health insurance" and the correct spelling of "financial." **Vote in favor: Unanimous.**

- E. Outstanding faculty award process: The alumni society award committee has been made up of previous outstanding faculty award recipients. Most of those individuals will not be faculty after this year. Thus, we need a process for creating a committee that will decide the outstanding faculty awards. After discussion, Senators Mollick and Brunke move that the alumni society award committee be composed of the most senior faculty member from each college and two senate appointees, who may be most recent alumni award winners. **Vote in favor: Unanimous.**
- F. Faculty Life Standing Committee: Senator Duskin introduced a proposal that the provost made to the SEC for a senate subcommittee on faculty life. This committee would handle issues such as FMLA (Family and Medical Leave Act), the University Eval-4 committee and others. There was discussion about the composition of committee and what it would do. The senate felt that the senate would benefit from a description from the provost, so will discuss the committee again in December.

#### VIII. Other

- A. Last year, minimal changes to the faculty senate constitution were made unconstitutionally since the full faculty are supposed to approve such changes. Senators discussed whether to ask the faculty to make small changes without bringing them to the full faculty. Some senators, however, felt that could introduce problems, so the suggestion was dropped.
- B. The change of the calendar was briefly discussed. President Wheeler felt that the calendar change was an announcement, not a matter for senate approval.
- C. A senator asked whether the chair of the program review committee should be tenured. President Wheeler suggested putting this on the December agenda.
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:03.