

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 5, 2003
SC 214, 300 p.m.

Senators present: Purtle, Doyle, Berry, Wheeler, Hicks, Grau, Whiting, Winder, Cartwright, Underwood, Schwarze, Knipp, Doughty, and Kidd

Guests in attendance: Anton Ricole, Linda Gordon, Jack Sims, Tim Marshal (ex officio member of Senate Executive Committee), Tom Stormer, Derek Austin, Aaron Page, Thomas J. Fellers, Noel Womack, Mario Mazzarella.

Note taker: Kathy Byars.

- I. Faculty Senate President Purtle called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and welcomed all visitors. Thomas Berry was introduced as a newly elected senator.
- II. President's Report
 - A. President Purtle announced openings for Faculty Senate liaison and alternate liaison appointments to the Board of Visitors. The first meeting of the BOV will be in December.
 - B. Regarding a discussion about whether academic standing committees had ex officio and senate appointed members on them, President Purtle said that she had examined the handbook and consulted with Provost Summerville on the question. All academic standing committees have ex officio members and senate appointed regular members serving on them. Provost Summerville agrees with President Purtle's interpretation of Handbook on Academic Standing Committees.
 - C. President Purtle will soon name nominees to the Elections Committee. The Elections Committee will hold all elections and will make a recommendation to the senate about how to realign the balance of senate elections and terms. Currently we the senate is off balance in relation to 50% of the senate being elected each year. This discrepancy is due to changes in the makeup of the academic units and the elimination of departments last year. President Purtle wants a proposal before the faculty at the November all-faculty meeting.
 - D. President Purtle will appoint senators to various handbook review committees. Senators should ask for suggestions

from members of their standing committees on improvement of the committee process or constitutions.

- E. President Tribble has made appointments to the Intellectual Properties Committee. The senate needs to make several appointments to this committee as well.
- F. President Purtle thanked Tim Marshal for sending education related information to the campus community. Dr. Marshal has formally taken on this service as "external affairs reporter" for the Faculty Senate. The senate needs for settle on a name for this position.
- G. In reference to questions about whether or not the Nominations Committee had been formed properly, President Purtle said that it had been and that she was in error in thinking that it had not been.

- III. Approval of minutes from 5-2-03: Approved unanimously.
Approval of minutes from 8-20-03 approved unanimously with correction adding an "e" to the end of Tracy Schwarze.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Jack Sims, Vice President for University Advancement, and Linda Gordon of the English Department spoke on the Strategic Planning Committee that has been formed by EPIC.

Simms discussed "Vision 2010," which is being co-chaired by Faculty Senate President Purtle and Provost Summerville. The goals of the committee are to make recommendations on a slightly revised mission statement, development of a CNU vision for 2010, and five university priorities. The committee will ask members of the university community to join them for 12 forums. From those forums will come development strategies to implement the goals. Jake Simms indicated that the dates and locations of the forums will be communicated to all on campus. They want wide participation at the work session. They envision BOV members, members of the staff and administration, university donors, students, alumni, and faculty to participate. They are using a broad definition of CNU community. There is a need for a comprehensive strategic plan for the development of fundraising that will allow for a broader spectrum of activities and projects. In the end, the strategic plan must be approved by the BOV. City officials and business leaders will be invited as well.

Linda Gordon indicated that the five priorities are intimately connected to the academic life of CNU.

- B. Elections committee reported that the elections for committee members have not yet been held, but Senator Doyle said that she had received nominations.
- C. No other committee reports. A question about Dr. Santoro's e-mail to the university concerning the election held to fill the vacant Social Science seat was moved to 'other items'.

V. Old Business

- A. President Purtle announced that she had received Provost Summerville's comments and changes to the Distinguished Professor recommendations made by the senate. It seems there are few major items. The provost wants a limit of one distinguished professor per department. The provost also recommends that a distinguished professor nominee must have been a professor for at least 12 years.

Informal discussion ensued on the differences between the senate's recommendations and the provost's response, and possible next step actions that the senate should take. Discussion focused on the implications of length of service requirements, departmental limitations, how the proposed policy compares with other policies at other universities, and that the rank of distinguished professor should be a rarity.

Senator Doughty moved that we ask the provost take our original version because his concerns are not warranted. Wheeler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

V. New Business

President Purtle asked if there was any objection to altering the agenda order. No objections were noted.

- A. Resolution 2003-2004: 03 (first reading). Senator Grau presented the resolution calling for the creation of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. Grau handed out information on the federal requirements for animal care and use. He noted that federal grants often only made to institutions meeting these requirements, including the

presence of this committee. This committee would be an appointed one rather than elected one since it would need people to sit on it from outside of the institution, such as a veterinarian. There would likely be costs involved in complying with the committee's recommendations. We may not presently have anyone working with covered animals, since it covers warm-blooded animals excluding rats and mice. Once the committee is in place, all animal studies must comply (even those that do not require the committee to function.) A visitor indicated that there is a need for this committee. Previous instances of faculty member needs were documented.

- B. Resolution 2003-2004: 02 (first reading). Senator Kidd presented the resolution pertaining to a proposed change to the university's non-discrimination policy for the Student Government Association. Senator Kidd noted that the wording of the resolution was the same as that passed by the SGA last year. The SGA forwarded it to the Faculty Senate for its consideration. Senator Kidd indicated that he had spoken with several members of the Gay-Straight Student Union and that their interest in the resolution was symbolic in the sense that they often didn't feel fully included and protected in the university community. Several Senators asked about the legal implications of such a change to the university non-discrimination policy. President Purtle said that she had spoken briefly with Bill Thro about any state or federal legal requirements concerning the resolution. The senate agreed to ask Bill Thro to attend the next senate meeting to answer questions pertaining to any legal issues related to the resolution.
- C. Resolution 2003-2004: 01 (first reading). Senator Kidd presented the resolution, which recommends that faculty attendance requirements at formal academic ceremonies be set at no less than 50% of faculty in each department. Formal academic ceremonies are those in which the faculty dons cap and gown. Several members of last year's executive committee noted that President Tribble raised the question in a meeting last April. A widely supported alternative was discussed that would require attendance at the May graduation, but then use the 50% guideline for other formal academic ceremonies.

- D. Resolution 2003-2004: 01 (first reading). Senator Gray, the resolution's sponsor, was not present. However, the senate noted how important computing was to the university and widely supported the resolution, which calls for the creation a standing Academic Computing Technology Committee.
- E. University Honor Code (sense of senate question). President Purtle was asked by the administration about the senate's view of posting the University Honor Code in every classroom. After some discussion it became clear that the sense of the senate was that students should be trusted and posting the University Honor Code implies a lack of trust. Students know the honor code and if they violate it then they should face the consequences. Posting it in every room seems like overkill. President Purtle asked for a straw vote and it was 9 to 4 against.
- F. New Faculty Mentoring Program (motion). President Purtle noted that Dean Gordon has suggested that the Faculty Senate create a New Faculty Mentoring Program. There was widespread support for the idea, but also widespread agreement that responsibility for it should not reside with the Faculty Senate. Instead, a committee should be responsible for the program. A motion was form a New Faculty Mentoring Program committee, and the motion passed unanimously.
- G. Teaching Evaluation Report and Recommendation (motion). President Purtle noted that Dean Gordon has asked the Faculty Senate to form a committee to make specific recommendations concerning teaching evaluation. It was noted that a committee headed by Scott Pollard of the English Department had produced a report last year on this topic and that report should serve as the basis of any action. It was recommended that this is the responsibility of the Faculty Review Committee. A motion was made to request the Faculty Review Committee to review the Pollard Report and send specific and actionable recommendations back to the Faculty Senate for action. The motion passed unanimously.
- H. Honors Convocation each Spring Semester (motion). President Purtle has been asked by the administration

about the possibility of having an Honors Convocation in the spring, where the university would honor those students who had receive academic awards and honors during the past year. Several senators noted that departments currently do this for their students, and there was widespread support for keeping this at the department level. A motion was made to have a Spring semester Honors Convocation and it failed.

- I. Basis for Faculty Raises (sense of senate question). President Purtle asked the sense of the senate as to whether raises this year should be meritorious or across the board. The senate discussed the fact that no raises had been given for three years. Senators had been asked to poll their constituencies about this question and most reported support for across the board raises. However, since the handbook requires raises to be merit based, a motion was made by Senator Grau and seconded by Senator Doyle for the following resolution:

Resolution 2003-2004:05 (sponsor: Senator Grau)

Whereas the faculty at CNU have gone three (3) years without raises, and in order to enhance esprit de corps among the faculty,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Faculty Senate recommends that all continuing faculty be deemed equally meritorious for this evaluation cycle and thus receive an equal percentage merit increase.

The motion passed with 13 voting yea, 0 voting nay, and 1 (Wheeler) abstaining.

- J. Dr. Mazzarella's Concerns About Mandatory Attendance at the Research Meetings (committee of the whole discussion). General discussion took place on this topic, and on the wider topic of requiring attendance at so many functions during the year and during start up week. President Purtle said she would take these concerns to Provost Summerville.

VI. Other Items

- A. Pam Pringle and Erik Duskin approved to what committee?
- B. Concerning the vote for the Social Science seat held on September 4, Senator Purtle apologized for any misunderstanding concerning her comments about “strong” candidates. There were 42 faculty eligible to vote in the election and 30 votes. Tom Berry won the election over Mario Mazzearella 17 votes to 13 votes. President Purtle noted that any problems found with the multi ballot, multi seat election process needs to be referred to *Robert’s Rules of Order*.
- C. It was noted by President Purtle that all by-laws, constitutions, etc., needs to be cleaned up so that they are always interpreted in the same way. President Purtle asked that senators being marking their Handbooks as they see problems or questions that need the senate’s attention.
- D. Senator Doughty asked the senate to look into CNU’s US News & World Report ranking and develop strategies for improving that ranking. After some discussion, the senate agreed that a committee should be formed to do this. Senator Doughty agreed to chair the committee and will proposed additional members at the next senate meeting.

VII. The Senate adjourned at 6:00 p.m.