**Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting**

January 17, 2013

Classroom Building 237

**I. Call to order**

Chair Ed Corwin called the meeting to order shortly after 11:00 AM.

**II. Roll call**

Senators present: Drs. David Boyles, Al Boysen, Robert Corey, William Cross, Thomas Fontaine, Adam French, Patrick Gilcrease, Stanley Howard, Charles Kliche, Travis Kowalski, Frank Matejcik, Larry Stetler, Charles Tolle, and Frank Van Nuys.

Also present: Joseph Marshall.

**III. Approval of agenda**

The agenda was approved.

**IV. Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the November 18, 2012 meeting of the Faculty Senate, after a few minor alternations, were approved. (Motion by Dr. Cross; seconded by Dr. Kliche.)

**V. Report from the chair**

After meeting with Acting President/VPAA Hrncir, Dr. Corwin related the following items of note.

* *Honors committee vacancy.* Dr. Larry Simonson, who has retired, is still Chair of the Honors Committee. He is looking to leave the committee, and so a new chair will need to be selected.
* *Commencement speaker update.* South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard has been proposed as the speaker for the 2013 Spring Commencement. However, it is conceivable that he might need to bow out, and so the administration is looking into back-up speakers should this event arise.
* *Lecturer rank advancement.* The various department heads have been tasked with looking at their procedures for the *advancement of rank* for lecturers, which is analogous to *promotion* for tenured/tenure-track faculty. There is currently no official policy in place. After some discussion, the Senate suggested this was a topic that should be considered by the Finance and Personnel Committee.
* *Professor emeritus.* Similarly, there is no official policy (or even unofficial campus guideline) on who earns the rank of *professor emeritus*. The general consensus is that as it currently stands, this is mostly a departmental decision: some departments bestow the title as a sort of “retirement gift,” but this is not true of all departments (and apparently can be a contentious issue in some corners of the campus). The subsequent discussion raised a number of questions: Is there an official BOR policy for the *emeritus* rank, and if not, should there be a University one? Are there “rights” that come with the title (free parking? office space?), and if so, what are the costs to the institution? Should a professor be required to apply for the title, and if so, what criteria must be met? It was decided that this was another issue best suited for the Finance and Personnel Committee. Dr. Kliche, the committee chair, agreed to set up a campus discussion of the issue.

**VI. Committee reports**

* *Bylaws Committee.* Dr. Howard presented two different proposed modifications to the Bylaws of the Faculty Senate designed to address the future possibility of an unfilled Faculty Chair.
1. *Version 1 (No chair elect version)*. In the event that a new Chair is not seated after the usual Nominating Committee procedure, the Senate is authorized to either (1) elect a new Chair at the next regular meeting of the Senate, or (2) establish a procedure to seat a Chair for the next term.
2. *Version 2 (Vice chair version)*. Creates a new position of Vice Chair, who would be elected by the usual Nominating Committee process. The Vice Chair would serve for one year as the assistant to the Chair, and upon completion of the academic year would become the Chair of the Faculty. The Chair would then serve for one year, and upon completion of the academic year would become the Past Chair. The Past Chair would serve for one year as an advisor to the Chair.

In addition, both proposals made some further minor modifications to address other issues over which the Bylaws are currently silent, such as

* + Provisos to allow proxy senators to vote, and to prevent departments from removing sitting senators prior to the completion of their term,
	+ Provisos to allow emergency voting by email, with the at least 60% of the Senators voting “aye” for the vote to carry,
	+ Reducing the loss of Senate representation from 2 years to 1 year for those departments that fail to elect a Senator in a timely fashion, and
	+ Postponing the official start of a new Chair’s Senate duties to the end of the spring commencement ceremony, thereby allowing the Past Chair to carry the mace at the ceremony.

Dr. Howard motioned, and Dr. Cross seconded, to adopt Version 2 (the Vice Chair policy). In the ensuing discussion, several Senators expressed reservations about the vice chair proposal. Among the issues raised:

* + The Vice Chair proposal requires an election *every* year, and might impede the learning curve of the Chair.
	+ The Vice Chair proposal originally was designed to address faculty concerns about the two-year obligation of the Chair. This proposal does not change the duration of the obligation, only the titles held during it.
	+ It effectively eliminates a Chair from serving a double term.

Upon voting by Senate, the motion failed.

Dr. Tolle motioned, and Dr. Matejcik seconded, to adopt Version 1 (the No Chair Elect policy). Further Senate discussion noted that, under Version 1, the new Chair need not be elected from the current Senate body. The suggestion to unify and clarify the voting language (“no less than 2/3s” versus “at least 60%,” etc.) was added as a friendly amendment to the motion. Upon voting by the Senate, the motion passed unanimously.

* The remaining standing committees had nothing to report.

**VII. Old Business**

1. *Micro/macro-economics update*. Dr. Kliche met with Dr. Sue Shirley, Head of the Department of Social Sciences, about the issue of bring micro- and macro-economics classes to SDSMT. As reported by Dr. Kliche and supported by Dr. Boyles, Dr. Shirley supports having these classes (especially micro-economics) on the SDSMT campus. Ideally, the instructor of these courses would be an adjunct faculty member housed in the Social Science Department.
2. *Academic dishonesty*. Discussion of issues of cheating among the student body was postponed to a future meeting, given that some of the Senators to whom the issue was important were not in attendance.
3. *Graduate student funding*. The Senate examined some of the issues relating to the funding of graduate students, as being currently discussed in the Council of Graduate Education. The CGE requires that graduate students be funded at some level, but the details of this (what level? how is it determined?) are only in the discussion phase. Some Senators noted the problem of attracting graduate students with the promise of “slave wages”, while others expressed concern over the conflict of “management desire” versus “research reality,” noting that the research budgets proposed by faculty were often inflated (e.g. partly due to federal rules guaranteeing the government “the best possible deal”) to the point that the proposal was basically unfundable.

**VIII. New business**

1. *Graduation speaker*. Dr. Howard motioned, and Dr. Van Nuys seconded, to accept the proposal of South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard as the 2013 Spring Commencement speaker. The motion passed unanimously.
2. *Update on Division II move*. Dr. Van Nuys, a member of the Athletic Oversight Committee, updated the Senate on SDSMT’s move to NCAA Division II. The realignment includes a Compliance Committee (which deals with NCAA issues), the inclusion of a Men’s Soccer team (for Title IX compliance), and a student-led effort to organize a baseball club. SDSMT’s attempt to join the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference as a pair with BHSU fell through, so the university is negotiating to join the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (which includes the Pacific northwest, Alaska, and British Columbia), as joining any conference will increase the number of home games, as well as provide later leverage for moving into a conference closer to home.

Many Senators expressed concerns that the increased travel will cause further finals exams conflicts. It was recommended that the Athletic Department be reminded of the policy that any activities scheduled during finals week require Senate approval, and that these policies exist to protect the students as well as the faculty. This concern was complemented by worry that the increased focus on Division II might diminish the caliber of Mines students, citing anecdotal evidence. The Senate recommended that Acting President Hrncir and Athletic Director Richard Kaiser meet with the Senate to discuss the implications of the Division II move. It was also suggested that the Senate should inquire whether the Athletic Department (and also the Military Science Department) wished to have faculty representatives in the Senate; Dr. Howard offered to inquire on the Senate’s behalf.

1. *Active shooter tutorial.* The Senate discussed the “Active Shooter” online training videos sent out by Jerilyn Roberts in the wake of the 12/14 Newtown shootings. Senators noted that the inability of faculty to lock or otherwise secure the doors to their classrooms represented a serious security threat in the event of a shooter on campus.
2. *Commencement MC.* Dr. Kowalski brought forward a question that arose in the Commencement Committee: should the commencement ceremony MC be a member of the SDSMT faculty (e.g. longtime MC Sid Goss), or is it appropriate for the speaker to be a member of the broader University community (e.g. VP for University Relations Christy Horn, who acted as MC during the 2012 Winter Commencement)? The Senate unanimously agreed that the commencement MC should simply be “the best person for the job,” but that person need not be faculty.

I**X. Adjournment**

Senate meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.