**Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting**

February 20, 2014

King Center Hall of Fame

**I. Call to order**

Chair Ed Corwin called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM.

**II. Roll call**

Senators present: Drs. David Boyles, Al Boysen, Robert Corey, William Cross, Marius Ellingsen, Adam French, Patrick Gilcrease, Jason Henry, Travis Kowalski, Timothy Masterlark, Frank Matejcik, Purushotham PT Tukkaraja, and Frank Van Nuys.

Also attending: Dean Jensen.

**III. Approval of agenda**

The agenda was approved.

**IV. Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the January 23, 2014 meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved.

**V. Report from the chair**

* A new “non-commercial free speech” policy for off-campus people was approved at the recent Cabinet Meeting. Specifically, the policy addresses whether or not off-campus groups can set up a political or religious event on the campus quad, and requires such groups to fill out of form with the Dean of Students agreeing, in part, to not interrupt students.
* After years of operating in the red, university finances will be breaking even this year, and forecast to be in the black next year. The plan to leave unfilled administrative vacancies has saved over $1 million.
* In recent years the Parking Committee has been acting as a policy-making committee, which is more appropriately the role of the University Cabinet. Consequently, the Parking Committee is being repurposed; its role will be to make recommendations, handle appeals, and to *initiate* policy. However, any such policy must be voted on by the Cabinet to be enacted.

**VI. Committee reports**

* The Nominating Committee confirmed the official timeline for the nomination process as per the updated ByLaws.
* The remaining standing committees had nothing to report.

**VII. Old Business**

* Dr. Corwin reminded each standing committees to review its charges and, in particular, any outstanding tasks assigned to it by the Senate.

**VIII. New business**

1. *Curriculum requests.* Acting on behalf of the Curriculum Committee, Dr. Cross presented the February curricular requests, indicating three that the committee felt warranted discussion:
   1. *M.S. in Industrial Engineering*. Dean Jensen provided information about IE’s intent to plan a master’s program with a research emphasis (that is, a thesis) to support students and research in the program. The thesis master’s degree can be implemented without too many additional courses; moreover, students seeking support for their master’s will need the thesis version. The program uses Virginia Tech as a model, with two foci: manufacturing and human factors
   2. *Program change in Geology*. The Geology B.S. program has made two substantive changes as a consequence of the demise of IS 110. First and most obvious, IS 110 has been dropped as a requirement, but it will be replaced with a freshmen orientation course with several similar key aspects, but also with some geological engineering topics. Second, the previously required field trip has been made an elective, due largely to faculty constraints.
   3. *Accelerated M.S.in MES.* A standard “accelerated” program, which includes up to 12 credits of 400 – 600 level coursework, approved by the graduate coordinator.

It was also noted that a curriculum request to modify the Applied Biological Sciences program had been tabled due to issues raised by Chemical Engineering. After discussion, the motion to approve all February curriculum requests passed unanimously.

1. *Expiring terms*. Senators Kowalski will be retiring this term. Senators Boyles, Boysen, Gilcrease, Henry, Matejcik, Masterlark, and Tukkaraja will continue with another term. The remaining Senators indicated that their respective departments had yet to vote on their senate representatives.
2. *Minutes at committee meetings*. Due in part to issues arising from the aforementioned tabled motion at the Curriculum Committee, the Senate discussed whether minutes should be kept for all committee meetings. Senators who argued *NO* felt that the requirement to take minutes smacked of micromanagement and had the potential to bring meetings to a crawl; moreover, such meetings are open to the faculty, so interested parties have ample opportunity to send a note-taker. Senators who argued *YES* felt that the lack of minutes reflected a failure to both apply and understand basic parliamentary procedure; a more conscious effort to apply parliamentary procedure would, in fact, *prevent* meetings from being brought to an informal crawl, as well as providing a record of disputes and discussions that might be relevant to someone after the fact. Dr. Boyles in particular noted that BOR Regulation 45 seemed to indicate that *all* campus committees were required not only to take minutes, but to keep them for 10 years; hence, a failure to take minutes would be a violation of BOR policy. After discussion, the following motion was put before the senate:
   * *The Senate reminds all campus committees, including department, faculty, and student committees, that keeping minutes of all meetings is required,as stipulated by BOR Regulation 45*.

The motion passed with 12 votes in favor, 1 vote against, and 1 abstention.

1. *Outstanding faculty award*. The Honors Convocation Committee, at the request of Provost Hrncir, was asked to consider whether it was appropriate to present the Outstanding Faculty Award at the spring student Honors Convocation. Dr. Kowalski, on behalf of the committee, explained that though the presentation of the Outstanding Faculty Award was originally a part of the student honors convocation, the purpose of the convocation had evolved to celebrate *student academic achievement* (as opposed to student leadership, outstanding athletic performance, etc., which are celebrated elsewhere), and so the faculty award would now be out-of-place there. The Senate, in general, agreed, noting that faculty themselves would feel out-of-place at a student award ceremony, although many voiced that it doesn’t fit well in its current spot, being presented among the faculty and staff service awards. After discussion, the following motion was put before the senate:
   * *The Senate moves that the Outstanding Faculty Award should not be presented during the student Honors Convocation.*

The motion passed unanimously.

1. *Other business.* Dr. Corwin reminded the Senate of the delayed March Senate Meeting (March 20, due to Spring Break), as well as the march General Faculty Meeting, to be scheduled for March 27 (or so). It was noted that the January Faculty Meeting was attended by only 6 faculty members, but generated an important discussion on GenEd that would be of interest to the faculty as a whole. Consequently, it was recommended that it be brought up again.

**VII. Adjournment**

The Senate adjourned at 12:10 PM.