**Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting**

April 11, 2013

Bump Conference Room

**I. Call to order**

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

**II. Roll call**

Senators present: Drs. Sangchul Bang (proxy for Thomas Fontaine), David Boyles (late arrival), Al Boysen (late arrival), Robert Corey, William Cross, Marius Ellingsen, Adam French, Patrick Gilcrease, Jason Henry, Stanley Howard (late arrival), Charles Kliche, Travis Kowalski, Frank Matejcik, and Frank Van Nuys.

Also present: James Feiszli, Rachel Howard, Richard Sinden.

**III. Approval of agenda**

The agenda was approved (with one abstention).

**IV. Approval of minutes**

The following were approved: the minutes of the February 14 meeting of the Faculty Senate, the minutes of the March 21 meeting of the Faculty Senate, and the minutes of the March 26 general faculty meeting.

**V. Report from the chair**

*Presidential search update.* Dr. Corwin relayed Stan Howard’s update on the presidential search. The committee will select a short list of four candidates, who will appear on campus (simultaneously!) during April 18 – 19. While there will be no specific time sets aside for the candidates to meet with the Senate, there will be times for the faculty as a whole to meet with each candidate. Dr. Howard strongly recommends that at least a few Senators attend all four meetings, one with each candidate.

**VI. Committee reports**

* The standing committees had nothing to report.

**VII. Old business**

None to discuss.

**VIII. New business**

1. *Undergraduate student graduation lists*. Dr. Bang, representing the Degrees Committee, presented the list of undergraduate students expected to earn AA and BS degrees by May or August 2013. The motion to approve the graduation list (subject to each student’s completion of all degree requirements) was approved unanimously.
2. *Graduate student graduation lists.* Rachel Howard, representing the Graduate Education Office, presented the list of graduate students expected to earn MS and PhD degrees by May or August 2013. John Anderson, a PhD candidate in the MES program, was added to the list as an expected summer graduate. The motion to approve the graduation list (subject to each student’s completion of all degree requirements) was approved unanimously.
3. *Curriculum requests.* Acting on behalf of the Curriculum Committee, Dr. Cross moved to approve all April curricular requests except for five (discussed below); after a brief discussion, the motion to approve these curriculum proposals passed unanimously. Of the remaining requests, two were handled with brief discussion: the motion to start an accelerated master’s program in EE passed (with 1 abstention), while a minor modification in Robotics (including the correction of a minor typo) passed unanimously. For the final three requests:

* *MUS 117*. As explained by Dr. Feiszli, Music 117: Music in Performance I is a new course designed to address an inequality in the humanities: namely, that unlike other programs such as drawing or acting), music courses count only for *humanities* credits, but cannot be applied to *GenEd Goal 4*, effectively dissuading students from taking music courses. MUS 117 would be a 1-credit course that would count towards GenEd Goal 4, and students (including those participating in orchestra or choir) could count this credit up to three times over three semesters. The motion to approve the MUS 117 request passed unanimously.
* *Modification to the BS in Applied Biological Sciences*. As explained by Dr. Sinden, the modification would allow both Physics 111 and 113 to count towards credit for the degree, since it is the 100-level sequence that has greater breadth of topics (the 200-level sequence is tailored specifically to engineers) and two full semesters of labs. Addressing concerns that medical programs would want students with calculus-based physics, Dr. Sinden noted that (1) students with 100-level physics experience have been successful in applying to medical school, (2) many other bio-science programs offer both algebra- and calculus-based physics, and (3) medical schools appear to prefer the year of laboratory experience. Dr. Sinden further explained that while students in the ABS program with a Molecular or Applied Biology emphasis would be advised to take the 100-level physics sequence, those in the program with a Biomedical Engineering emphasis would be advised to take the 200-level physics sequence. The motion to approve the modification to the ABS degree passed unanimously.
* *CHEM 464/5*. The older 1-semester Chemistry 460: Biochemistry course is being split into 2 semesters to add more substance to the program. Topics will include biomolecules, metabolic processes, nucleic acid, and greater molecular emphasis. The motion to approve the CHEM 464/5 request passed unanimously.

1. *MOOCs discussion*. As related by Dr. Corwin, Mike Gunn requested that the Senate start a discussion on Massively Open Online Courses, or MOOCs. In particular, should we was a campus accept MOOCs for transfer credit and, to a lesser degree, should we consider offering MOOCs. Most Senators expressed some degree of apprehension or concern over accepting MOOC as transfer credits:
   * MOOCs use a number of grading schemes, from standard ABCDF grades to more vague “certificates” for coursework (e.g. Coursera).
   * There is evidence that many MOOCs have terrible retention rates; they seem of use only to those highly self-motivated students.
   * An acceptable MOOC needs some form of accreditation: an independent assessment of material, content, and evaluation of students.
   * At what point would a MOOC-heavy degree fail to be an SDSMT degree? How would credits in-residency be counted? How much money might we lose?
   * Is there a position statement on MOOCs from any engineering, scientific, or mathematical society?
   * Less academic, but no less important: you lose the sense of “college community.”

It was suggested that the Academic Affairs committee look into these issues and put forward a position paper for Senate consideration.

1. *BOR update.* The Board of Regents has a new president, Dean Krogman. The BOR is also meeting on May 14 – 16 in Brookings; Dr. Corwin invited interested Senators to attend the meeting in his place.

**IX. Adjournment**

Senate meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.