**Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting**

September 12, 2013

McKeel Room

**I. Call to order**

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

**II. Roll call**

Senators present: Drs. Alfred Boysen, Robert Corey, Marius Ellingsen (late arrival), Thomas Fontaine, Adam French, Patrick Gilcrease, Stanley Howard (proxy for William Cross), Travis Kowalski, Timothy Masterlark, Frank Matejcik, Charles Tolle, Purushotham PT Tukkaraja, and Frank Van Nuys.

**III. Approval of agenda**

The agenda, with the addition of discussion of the new CGE policy under New Business, was approved.

**IV. Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the May 2, 2013 meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved.

**V. Report from the chair**

* Senate Members introduced themselves, including new Senators Tim Masterlark from Geology and Geological Engineering, and PT Tukkaraja from Mining and Mining Engineering.
* Travis Kowalski continued his appointment as recording secretary
* Dr. Corwin reminded senators that they are conduits of information to and from their departments. Committee Chairs should similarly contact appropriate administration members to discuss committee business.
* It was recommended that the results of email votes, which typically occur in between Senate Meetings, shall be included in the minutes of the subsequent Senate Meeting as a part of the Chair’s Report.

**VI. Committee reports**

* The standing committees (Academic Affairs, Research and Scholarly Affairs, Finance and Personal, Student Affairs, University Relations, Bylaws, and Nominating) had nothing to report.

**VII. Old Business**

1. *Emeritus policy*. The current draft of the revised emeritus professor policy includes the provision that candidates for emeritus rank be approved by the Senate. Noting the final form of the policy is still in flux, Senators discussed whether the Senate *should* have a say this process. In particular, by what criteria would the Senate ever say *NO* to an emeritus request sent forward from a Department Head? It was decided that this issue be sent to the Finance and Personnel Committee for further investigation.
2. *Lecturer oversight*. The current policy regarding the lecturer rank designates the Department Head as its sole source of oversight. Senators again discussed the role of the professoriate in lecturer oversight, noting both the need for “academic continuity” in the curriculum and the potential long-term effects on the quality of education (including the concern of hiring *lecturers* rather than *professors* for fundamental courses). It was decided that this issue be sent to the Academic Affairs Committee for further investigation.
3. *Plus/minus grading*. According to Dr. Corwin, there is a proposal to allow +/- grades to appear on student transcripts, but *not* to have them contribute to a student’s GPA. Senators were generally unimpressed with this proposal, taking issue with its apparent (grade)pointlessness[[1]](#footnote-1), as well as with the more general issue of the asymmetry between the A– grade (which harms a GPA) and the A+ grade (which has no positive effect).

**VIII. New business**

1. *Senate committee members*. The standing committees were populated by nomination and member volunteers. The new committee rosters are shown below:
   * Academic Affairs

Dr. Bill Cross, Chair

Dr. Dmitrios Anagnostou

Dr. Marius Ellingsen

Dr. Bharat Jasthi

Dr. Charles Kliche

* + Research and Scholarly Affairs

Dr. Adam French, Chair

Dr. John Dreyer

Dr. Larry Stetler

Dr. Sadegh Safarzadeh

Dr. Charles Tolle

* + Finance and Personnel

Dr. Frank Van Nuys, Chair

Dr. Bill Capehart

Dr. Hao Fong

* + Student Affairs

Dr. Patrick Gilcrease, Chair

Dr. Jennifer Benning

Dr. Kayla Pritchard

Dr. Judy Sneller

Dr. Frank Van Nuys

* + University Relations

Dr. Travis Kowalski, Chair

Dr. Robert Corey

Dr. Jon Kellar

* + Bylaws

Dr. Al Boysen, Chair

Dr. David Boyles

Appointments for the Nominating Committee were postponed until the next meeting. New Senate appointments were also made to other campus committees, including

* + Dr. PT Tukkaraja, added to the Curriculum Committee
  + Dr. Tom Fontaine, added to the Parking Committee
  + Dr. Travis Kowalski, added to the Honors Committee

1. *Update on parking.* Frank Van Nuys reported on the issues discussed in the August 2013 meeting of the Parking Committee. He reported that the university’s “growing pains” are evident: red and yellow permits are sold out, Industrial Engineering’s ongoing cross-town parking issues are exacerbated by the Kansas Street shutdown, there is a lack of space for new parking, and so on. Dr. Corwin reported that he met with Provost Hrncir regarding the motions passed by the Senate at the May 2013 meeting regarding parking, namely, that (1) the creation of a *faculty* parking designation and (2) the addition of a Senator to the Parking Committee and the requirement that parking policies put forth by the committee be approved by the Senate. Dr. Hrncir stated he could not meet all these requests, but did add Senate representation to the Parking Committee.
2. *Approval of graduation speaker*. Dr. Howard moved, seconded by Dr. Corey, to approve of Senator Tim Johnson as the 2013 Commencement Speaker. Motion carried unanimously.
3. *“Chain of Command” policy.* The newly revised version of the Chain of Command policy, established to facilitate the university in responding to situations requiring immediate action in the event of the unavailability of the President, has reordered the list of Vice Presidents, and included in the 6th through 8th spots the directors of various programs (Human Resources, Environmental Health and Safety, and Athletics). Senators discussed the new additions, as well as the absence of Department Heads (or any other representatives from the faculty) in the document. Dr. Howard proposed, and Dr. Kowalski seconded, the following:
   * *Motion*. With regards to the current Chain of Command policy, the Senate recommends the Chain of Command be shortened to include only the first 5 Vice Presidents currently listed. If this list is somehow deemed insufficiently robust, then the Chair of the Faculty and the Department Heads (in some order) should be included in the Chain of Command to reflect their integral role in the functioning of the University.

The motion passed with unanimous approval.

1. *Executive Council*. Dr. Ellingsen reported that the Executive Council was in need of a faculty representative. The Senate discussed whether this role would be best served with a Senate representative. It was noted that it should be distinct from the Chair of the Faculty, Dr. Corwin, who is a member of the Cabinet (where policy is made). Dr. Corwin remarked that he would follow up on the Council’s request.
2. *CGE policy on RAs*. Dr. Tolle reported that as of January 2014, only three types of Research Assistantships would be allowed (1/2 time, 3/4 time, and full time); moreover, they must be fully fund the tuition (up to that time, i.e. ½ funded for ½ time, etc.) in fees. He also noted the policy did not affect Teaching Assistantships. The policy was drafted by Dean of Graduate Education Doug Wells at the behest of the Provost and the Vice President for Research. Senators noted that while the intent of the policy was worthwhile (it more or less pays RAs better by edict), they were concerned by the negative effect this might have on grant writing (such as causing little grants to “evaporate,” or increasing the burden on grad students to “pay up or go home”), and discussed the driving forces behind the new policy. It was suggested that the Provost or VP for Research be invited to the Senate to report on the new policy.
3. *Children on campus*. Dr. Gilcrease initiated a discussion on the University’s policy about children on campus, which essentially states that members of faculty and staff will not bring their children to campus, including to one’s class or to one’s office. It was decided that this issue be sent to the Finance and Personnel Committee for further discussion.
4. *Starfish concerns*. Dr. Tukkaraja initiated a discussion regarding concerns about Starfish, and in particular the inundation of advisee “flags” and other announcements it reports. What are the particular responsibilities required of the faculty with regards to this? Is there a need for guidelines regarding “Starfish etiquette”? At what point does Starfish become an *invasive* level of administration with advisees? It was suggested that the Provost be invited to the Senate to answer questions regarding Starfish.

**XI. Other**

1. *Upcoming scheduled meetings*. Future Faculty Senate meetings were scheduled the Fall 2013 Semester for October 10 in the Hisega Room; November 14 in the Bump Room; and December 12 in the Bump Room, from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM. Spring Semester meetings were scheduled for January 13, February 13, March 20, and May 8, from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM, all in the Bump Room.
2. *General faculty meeting* was scheduled for September 26, 2013.

**X. Adjournment**

The Senate adjourned at 12:40 PM.

1. “The goodness of a true pun is in the direct ratio of its intolerability.” Edgar Allen Poe, *Marginalia*, 1849 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)