

Minutes - Faculty Senate
November 13, 1998
2pm - Gallatin Room

Attendees: John Evans, Don Stierle, Doug Cameron, Larry Smith, Celia Schahczenski, Mary McLaughlin, Dan Bradley
Recorder: Larry Smith

Old Business I

Department Heads vs Chairs discussion with Bradley

Draft of the job description document for Department Heads was initiated by Bradley, but not written by him; an ad hoc committee that included Knudsen and other department heads and deans wrote the draft. Bradley made the point that in the past, heads have been appointed fairly collegially. Substitution of the words "Department Chair" vs "Department Head" was discussed briefly. The authority of the Head, namely assignment of faculty to teach which courses and handling the budget, would not change with a name change, but documents referring to the title would.

Senators suggested additions to the section of the handbook that would include the job description may include:

- Terms of appointment: There was general support to institute terms. Bradley suggested a 5-year initial appointment with a single 5-year extension. Discussion centered on the need for a longer initial term and the possibility of having shorter terms of reappointment; Bradley argued for 3-5 year second term(s), others suggested 2-year second term(s).
- Evaluations: Bradley said evaluations of heads will occur this year. The senate will draft wording to formalize the process in the document.
- Tenured faculty: a suggestion to include the statement that generally department heads will be tenured faculty was discussed. There was agreement that we do not want to exclude non-tenured faculty from the position, but that having non-tenured department heads has the potential to lead to problems.

The problems of the sizes of campus committees were mentioned by Bradley. He reminded us that there are 17 departments on campus, which therefore have a small average size. Including a representative from each department on committees makes for large committees and the needs for individuals to serve on multiple committees.

Senators volunteered to rewrite portions of the document and send it around electronically for comment. The intent is to bring suggested changes back to the deans, VCAAR, Chancellor, and eventually to bring it before the general faculty.

Minutes approved (as amended): 10/23/98, 10/30/98, 11/6/98.

Reports

BOR Meeting (upcoming) - Tech will present proposals/ideas about new programs. Doug asked Don to bring up the search for alternate funding formulas for the schools when he talks to faculty senators on other campuses.

Chancellors Cabinet -

Doug reported that Gilmore suggested instituting a weekly campus update newsletter to be distributed via email and the web. Gilmore is looking for feedback on the idea. Our discussions centered on the ambitious frequency and the need for submittals and an editor. The faculty senate likes the idea but feels that it need someone strongly committed to the newsletter.

The negative reaction of the Cabinet to the proposed “roll up” of Tech research proposals into UM’s was reported on.

Old Business II

VCAAR Search -Courtney is our representative on the committee.

Meeting with Regent Thompson - It was a good meeting to start improving communication with the Regents. Suggestion was made to meet again during the legislative session.

Other - Faculty Senate representatives on the NW accreditation committees:

Standard One - Link

Standard Two - Schahczenski

Standard Three - Cameron

Standard Four - Stierle

Standard Five - McLaughlin

Standard Six - Stierle

Standard Seven - Evans

Standard Eight -Luft

Standard Nine -

Adjourn 3:10 pm