

NAU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes Monday, April 03, 2006

Please email corrections to Julie.Hammond@nau.edu

Call to order:

Senate President Marcus Ford called the meeting of the NAU Faculty Senate to order at 3:04 p.m. in the Student Union/Kaibab room.

Members Present: Syl Allred, Minnie Andrews, Roger Bacon, Virginia Blankenship, Kathy Bohan, Chuck Connell, Bill Culbertson, Jim Davis, Sally Doshier, Jack Dustman, Heidi Fogelberg, Marcus Ford, Liz Grobsmith, John Haeger, Emily Hill, Glenn Hookstra, Loma Ishii, Gae Johnson, Chunhye Lee, Rich Lei, Louise Lockard, Dave McKell, Helaine McLain, Rich McNeill, Janet McShane, Larry Mohrweis, Nancy Paxton, Reed Riner, Blase Scarnati, Nando Schellen, Astrid Sheil, Bill Stone, Marty Sommerness, and Marsha Yowell.

Others Present: Susanna Maxwell, Karen Pugliesi, Jim Sample, Tom Sisk

Acceptance of Agenda/Minutes: Senate President Marcus Ford asked for an approval of the agenda. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion Passed.** Senate President Marcus Ford asked for an approval of the minutes from the March 27th meeting. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion Passed.**

Liberal Studies Review Committee [LSRC] Proposal Modification: Senate President Marcus Ford said that Blase Scarnati, Chair of the Liberal Studies Committee, Dayle Hardy-Short, Chair of the University Curriculum Committee and Virginia Blankenship, Chair of the Liberal Studies Committee met with the Senate Executive committee earlier today to discuss the LSRC [proposal modification](#). Marcus turned over the meeting to Past President Larry Mohrweis to preside over this discussion to avoid a conflict of interest. Virginia Blankenship gave a synopsis of the process that led resulted in the [final report](#) dated March 13, 2006 of the Liberal Studies Review Committee. Blase Scarnati said the Liberal Studies Review Committee really took great pains to try and build a document that most everyone would agree on and that would pass a campus vote. Blase felt the proposal modification would generate a great deal of discussion. Marcus asked for comments. Senator Sally Doshier from the Nursing Department said the modified proposal would be very difficult for her department to incorporate. The modified proposal would force the Nursing Department to remove major courses to meet the requirements as outlined. Sally says she feels strongly that environmental issues are important. Senator Helaine McLain said, "While I enthusiastically support the critical importance of providing our students with an understanding of the environment, I feel strongly that they should also be exposed to the arts. In the modified proposal, three credits have been added to the science block, already the largest block in credit hours, and taken away from the Aesthetic/Humanities block to be replaced with environmental studies. While the three credits taken from the Cultural Understanding block have been shifted to a cultural perspective of the environment, none of the credits taken from the arts has been replaced. Over the years, as funding for programs in the arts has dwindled in all arenas, particularly education, I have noticed that students entering NAU have virtually no experience with or understanding of the arts except on a crass popular level. The arts comprise so many disciplines -- music, visual arts, theatre, humanities, art history, etc. - - that to cut the credits by 50%, to the minimal number, in a liberal studies program is

not acceptable. Among my colleagues across campus, I have experienced an appalling lack of respect and appreciation for the arts, which is passed by faculty to students in various ways. One example is a student who needed additional credit hours after the deadline to add a course. His advisor, in a professional program, encouraged him to take a physical education course or an art course since he would not really have missed much in content during the period he was not in class! If this is the perspective of an educated person, imagine what that perspective is among those who have not had even an undergraduate education. The arts teach us of the most human and precious of our values; they are universal expressions of our aspirations. They have taught us about our pre-literate ancestors and the most critical current issues (including environmental issues!) and have prophesied our future. They are how we communicate non-verbally with those whose words we do not understand. And they are endangered in our contemporary society. Marcus responded saying the proposal is bare bones and said that leaves a lot of room for various misunderstandings. Marcus said that many of the courses already in place would meet the proposed environmental requirement. More discussion took place. A comment was made that the modified proposal would make it difficult for those students that are required to take a foreign language. Another comment was made to faculty about the possibility of requiring students to take their foundation courses during their freshman year. There are students waiting until their junior or senior year to fulfill these requirements. Marcus commented that he did not feel that the modified proposal was that much different than the final proposal and was surprised that it has generated this much attention. **A motion was made and seconded to postpone the Liberal Studies Review Committee proposal vote to the Faculty Senate meeting on May 8th. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded to send the modified proposal to the University Curriculum Committee and the Liberal Studies Committee for review so that they may respond to the proposal by the April 24th Faculty Senate meeting. Motion passed.**

Comments from the President: NAU President John Haeger said he did not have any formal comments. He said he hoped the legislature may finish up early but we may have to wait until school is out to know what the state budget will be. On May 1st, there will be a new NAU facility opening in Tucson off I-10. This facility will allow NAU to offer more programs and courses in the Tucson area.

Comments from Provost Grobsmith: Provost Grobsmith said with regards to the COFS rewrite, they are moving forward with the changes. At the next ABOR meeting they will present the proposal for the Principal Lecturer rank. This is a new rank in addition to our non-tenure track faculty title and is described in the COFS document. The Provost said once the board approves it does not mean we have to use it but we may use it. The Provost thanked the COFS rewrite committee for putting this together so well. The second part of the COFS rewrite is that they are moving ahead again with the OMBUDS proposal. The OMBUDS office will be provided out of the academic side. It will be structured with a half-time coordinator and fall semester spent training faculty. Once these faculty have been trained, they will serve as volunteer ombudsperson. The Provost just returned from China. They are expanding their network for the 1-2-1 program and have signed agreements with a couple more universities. She traveling to the interior of China this time and visited several schools. They are starting a new partnership with one institution, the Central South University of Forestry and Technology in Hunan, China. They will be our first partners in a graduate 1-2-1 program that is a

Masters in Teaching English as a Second Language. There is a large demand for this program in China.

- A question was asked about the Saudi Arabia students that were to attend NAU. The Provost said that there are 30 Saudi students enrolled at NAU this semester. This opportunity came to NAU by way of alumni. International Office Director, Steve Wright had a student in political science who has become a Vice President of Saudi Airlines. This student is also an important member of the Saudi Arabia government. NAU has been put on a list of approved universities for study for international students. The 30 students are government sponsored and will be here for four years. She expects that number to double in the future.
- A question was asked about faculty promotion and tenure. The President's letters have gone out. All of the Provost's recommendations to the President were made two weeks ago.

Developing Informed and Engaged Citizens: The Imperative for Higher Education:

A presentation by George Mehaffy For more information on the American Democracy Project, go to <http://www.aascu.org/programs/adp/about/default.htm>.

Reception to follow in the Meadows Room, duBois.

Old Business/New Business/Announcements: None

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m. The next meeting will be from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 24, 2006 in the Student Union/Kaibab Room.