

FACULTY COUNCIL
Minutes of Jan. 22, 2009 Meeting

Present: Barnas, Carusi, Golden, Kipp, Miller (guest), Pate, Scott, Sibicky (chair), Stewart (guest), Young (recorder-in-turn)

1. Meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.
2. Faculty Council Chair Mark Sibicky welcomed alternate Matt Young, who will serve in Janet Bland's place on Council until she is able to return.
3. Minutes from the January 15, 2008 meeting were corrected and unanimously approved.
4. Council discussed issues related to sabbaticals granted for 2009-10. Discussion focused on two issues:
 - a. the appearance of a conflict of interest in a standing member of FDC requesting and receiving a sabbatical for 2009-10.
 - b. the possible recourse for a faculty member whose sabbatical application was rejected.

After considering the evidence provided to the Council and determining that there did not appear to be any clear violations of existing procedure, Council saw no need to question the judgment of the Faculty Development Committee. Discussion was tabled at 3:30 in order to allow Gloria Stewart to address the Council.

5. As chair of the Human Subjects Committee, Stewart highlighted some of the bottlenecks in the current procedure for submission and approval of human subjects research proposals. The main issues discussed:
 - a. members recuse themselves where their own departments are concerned, which results in an increased burden on an already small committee, particularly because turnaround times are short.
 - b. incomplete research proposals, caused by lack of faculty oversight and unclear procedural guidelines, cause rejections and delays
 - c. record-keeping for online human subjects ethics training certificates is inconsistent.
 - d. clear criteria to determine which research projects require committee approval need to be established.

It is clear that the existing set of policies and procedures are cumbersome and that streamlining the process will require a thorough review. Stewart and Mary Barnas agreed to meet to draft changes.

6. Council returned to the sabbatical issues raised in #3 above. With regard to issue 3(a) it was recommended that language on the committee request form, which asks that faculty intending to apply for sabbatical leave not serve on Faculty Development, [need direct

quote] be included in the Faculty Constitution in order to prevent any future conflicts of interest. Though the form indicates that Council approved said language in 1998, this step was not taken at that time. With regard to issue 3(b) Council reasoned that more specific feedback, which addressed the sabbatical application in light of the FDC's criteria, along the lines of the response required by the college's tenure-review process, or that typical of a peer-reviewed scholarly publication, would be a constructive step toward making this process more transparent. Provost Kipp agreed to convey such feedback in person with the faculty member involved, and Sibicky proposed that Luding Tong, chair of Faculty Development, meet with Council to review the aforementioned issues and Council's recommendations.

7. As time was running short, Council tabled discussion of the proposed "Policy on Care and Use of Vertebrate Animals in Research and Instruction" for the next meeting.
8. Sibicky requested times of trustee committee meetings for the upcoming February trustee meeting from President Scott, so that Council liaisons can be assigned.
9. Council approved a recommendation for the Campus Service Award.
10. Council reviewed the priority list of issues raised in the fall 2008 faculty survey and reiterated related follow-up tasks.
11. Provost Kipp announced that the revised Academic Dishonesty Policy had been approved by Student Senate.
12. Sibicky mentioned that a small number of the faculty evaluations of the president and provost have been received. After some brief discussion, it was decided to remind faculty of the upcoming February 10 deadline via email.
13. Council crafted a preliminary agenda for the January 29 meeting.
14. Meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.