

May 05, 2003

Faculty Senate meeting minutes: 05/05/2003

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Recommended Citation

Flyn, John G., "Faculty Senate meeting minutes: 05/05/2003" (2003). *Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes*. Paper 28.
<http://hdl.handle.net/2047/d10005353>

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TO: FACULTY SENATE
FROM: JOHN G. FLYM, SECRETARY, FACULTY SENATE
SUBJECT: MINUTES, 2002-2003 FACULTY SENATE MEETING, 5 MAY 2003

Present: (Professors) Alper, Alverson, Aroian, Baclawski, Bannister, Barnes, Brookins, Bruns, Ellis, Flym, Hall, Hearn, Herman, Hope, Khaw, Lowndes, Metghalchi, Morrison, Ondrechen, Platt, Powers-Lee, Sherman, Sherwood, Vaughn, Wallin, Wray
(Administrators) Abdelal, Meservey, Onan, Pantalone, Putnam, Stellar, Zoloth

Absent: (Professors) Gilmore, Kane, Serafim, Shafai, Wertheim
(Administrators) Greene, Mantella, Soyster

Convened by Provost Abdelal at 12:04 p.m.

I. **Minutes.** Consideration of the minutes of April 21 and 28 was postponed, as they had just been distributed.

II. **SAC Report.** Professor Lowndes reported the following.

A. **Meetings.** SAC met once since last week's meeting and worked on a draft of proposed improvements to our search procedures. The President, the Provost, and SAC then exchanged suggestions for changes. All agreed to withhold details about any changes until after the May 16 meeting with the President and Provost.

B. **University Standing Committee on Tenure Appeals.** Professor David M. Phillips has been elected to replace Professor Mary O'Connell as the representative from the School of Law.

C. **Tribute to Bill Faissler.** Emeritus Professor William L. Faissler, former member of the Faculty Senate and Chair of the Senate Agenda Committee (1987-89), died last week.

During his time at Northeastern, Bill made many very significant contributions to the life of the University. He was a gifted and very popular teacher who was equally innovative in the classroom and in the teaching laboratory. He played important roles in the development of new degree programs in physics and also in the original development of the core curriculum in the College of Arts and Sciences. He was a key member of the original High Energy research team that over the years has continued to play such an enormous role in the development and visibility in research not only for Physics but also for the University, and he has countless research publications in his field.

Bill's organizational skills were legendary and he served over many years as an extraordinarily successful Executive Officer for the Department, and also as Acting Chair during 1987-88.

Perhaps above everything else, we shall remember Bill for his good humor, his evenhandedness, and his wonderful ability to bring great perspective and a down to earth reality to any occasion and any matter, no matter how difficult these might seem to be at the time.

Once, at one of their daily meetings when Professor Lowndes was Chair and Bill was Executive Officer, Bill's ready smile seemed somewhat less intense, and he expressed frustration with some of the stronger egos in the department and their unreasonableness on some issue. Later that day, in characteristic Bill fashion, he issued a one line memo to the department indicating that from henceforth no faculty member could have more than one personal crisis in any given year.

The Senate paused for a moment of silence.

D. **Next Senate Meeting: Monday, May 12, at 11:45 a.m. in 308 SN.**

III. **Provost's Report.** Provost Abdelal reported the following.

Accreditation for the College of Business Administration. The assumption, in terms of accreditation for the College of Business Administration, was that CBA's programs could be reviewed separately from those in University College. Several months ago, however, it was learned that the University as a whole would have to be accredited with all its programs. While exploring how that would work, it was assumed that we could have two degree programs, one in CBA and one in Management Science in UC. As interaction continued with the national accreditation society as to what they might support, we have come full circle and are now trying to ascertain how to prepare for the visit. A group of faculty and leadership from CBA is working to develop the model for meeting accreditation standards. Current thinking is that all degrees are housed in the College of Business and that any additional faculty positions would go to CBA.

IV Question and Discussion Time

Professor Herman pointed out that the current relationship of non-degree-granting programs related to UC and the other colleges will continue unchanged. Provost Abdelal responded that, although the focus is on CBA because of the accreditation timeline, it does not mean other areas will not be looked at in the future.

V. Institutional Management Practices Committee Report on Information Services.

Professor Herman explained that the committee had taken under advisement the Senate's changes to Resolution #1, and he moved the following, revised Resolution #1:

BE IT RESOLVED That faculty governance in the arena of information and related telecommunications systems be restored as they relate to the teaching, research, and service functions of the academy by the creation of a Standing Senate Information Systems Policy Committee. This Standing Committee will permit faculty and individual units to share their vision and participate in the assessment planning, implementation, and evaluation of information systems, and distribution facilities and infrastructures. The committee would consist of nine teaching faculty appointed by the Senate Agenda Committee and three administrators, one of whom is appointed by the Provost, one by the Senior Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Life, and one by the Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance. The Vice President for Information Systems serves as an *ex officio* member. Membership also includes two students, one appointed by the Student Government Association and one by the Graduate and Professional Student Association. The Committee's charge is as follows:

- a. **This Committee shall be concerned with all questions relating to the development, maintenance, security, and availability of information systems and infrastructures;**
- b. **The Committee periodically reviews information systems priorities, policies, resources, and operations and, based on these reviews, makes recommendations concerning activities that may improve operations or enhance the seamless flow of data and information to the communities that depend on it;**
- c. **The Committee also makes recommendations to the Senate Agenda Committee, the administrative head of Information Systems, or to others in the administration (as appropriate) on matters concerning operations, resources, or policies.**

Professor Ondrechen reported that she has been working with a biotech committee on campus. She recommended that a separate committee be established for research computing. Provost Abdelal and Professor Herman agreed that such an amendment be moved in the discussion of the second resolution.

Professor Baclawski yielded the floor to Professor Rasala.

Professor Rasala explained that he had worked for many years with the various computer committees. The University Technology Council is an evolutionary body, but, while it has not been lacking in ideas or faculty input, its funding has been frozen for three years. He was concerned that a new committee, as had happened with the UTC, would not be able to achieve its aims due to lack of funds.

Professor Herman concurred with Professor Rasala's report on the history of computing at the University. He pointed out that the committee being proposed would have a more global view and would be able to make recommendations to the Senate and administration that would include funding.

There being no objection, the Senate turned to a vote.

Vote on Resolution #1: PASSED, 28-1-3.

Professor Herman moved Resolution #2, and the motion was seconded. The resolution read as follows:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the University immediately commit itself to the development of an integrated and robust research-computing infrastructure. While not mandating any particular structure or configuration, this infrastructure should provide basic internet access to library, reprint and data base services with content adequate to the research activities of the university, high performance workstation and supercomputer resources, ultra high speed data and video communications, programming support, modeling and simulation support, and support for dedicated laboratory signal, imaging, bioinformatics, display and data processing devices. These resources should be under effective faculty governance and be flexible enough to accommodate a wide range of research and scholarship requirements.

Motion. Professor Ondrechen moved to amend by adding the following: "A standing committee consisting of five faculty members and two technical personnel will develop policy, assess research computing needs, and formulate plans for future research computing development. This committee will form liaisons with the Standing Senate Information Systems Policy Committee, the Research Committee, and the University Technology Council." This was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Motion. Professor Alper moved to amend by substituting "seven" for "five" faculty members and adding that the members be from "each of the degree-granting colleges". The first part of the motion was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Discussion followed on whether the members should be selected from each college or by the Agenda Committee.

Professor Flym called the question, and the motion was seconded.

Vote on cloture: PASSED, 31-0-0.

Vote on Professor Alper's amendment to have representatives from each college: FAILED, 8-22-2.

Motion. Professor Meservey suggested substitution of "recommend policy" for "develop policy", and this was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Professor Bruns expressed concern about the large amount of funding that might be requested. Professor Lowndes responded that, as with any issue, it seemed reasonable that the committee could at least be an advocate for funding in that area. But advocacy did not always lead to funding. Requests would go to the Committee on Funding Priorities, the Budget Committee and the President, and they would make the final decisions. There was substantial ongoing flexibility in the budget beyond the marginal tuition increases.

Professor Onan expressed concern about the first sentence in the resolution. Professor Herman explained that research, which is an essential resource for top-100 status, was not on the original list of priorities. Clearly, steps should be taken to make it more visible. He pointed out that the resolution did not mandate a specific structure for the resource.

Dean Zoloth expressed concern about establishing a standing committee to address the broad array of issues.

Motion. Professor Ellis moved to delete "standing", and this was accepted as a friendly amendment.

There being no further discussion, the Senate turned to a vote.

As amended, Resolution #2 read as follows:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the University immediately commit itself to the development of an integrated and robust research-computing infrastructure. While not mandating any particular structure or configuration, this infrastructure should provide basic internet access to library, reprint and data base services with content adequate to the research activities of the university, high performance workstation and supercomputer resources, ultra high speed data and video communications, programming support, modeling and simulation support, and support for dedicated laboratory signal, imaging, bioinformatics, display and data processing devices. These resources should be under effective faculty governance and be flexible enough to accommodate a wide range of research and scholarship requirements. A committee consisting of seven faculty members and two technical personnel will recommend policy, assess research computing needs, and formulate plans for future research computing development. This committee will form liaisons with the Standing Senate Information Systems Policy Committee, the Research Committee, and the University Technology Council.

Vote on Resolution #2, as amended: 27-3-0.

Professor Herman moved Resolution #3, and the motion was seconded. The resolution read as follows:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That faculty roundtables continue on an annual basis to assure a strong faculty voice relative to the academy's need in the area of Information Services during this accelerated information age.

Professor Aroian commended the Information Services group for its work in many diverse areas.

Discussion followed in support of the concept of the resolution.

Motion. Professor Hope called the question.

Vote on cloture: PASSED, 30-0-0.

Vote on Resolution #3: PASSED, 30-0-0.

- VI. **Proposal to Transfer Special Education Programs from the Department of Counseling and Applied Educational Psychology to the School of Education.** Professor Barnes moved the following resolution, and the motion was seconded. The resolution read as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate approve the proposal to transfer undergraduate and graduate programs in Special Education from the Department of Counseling and Applied Educational Psychology in Bouvé College of Health Sciences to the School of Education in the College of Arts and Sciences, without commitment to provide additional resources to the program, as approved by the Arts and Sciences College Council on 21 April 2003.

The floor was yielded to Professor Mason, Chair of the Department of Counseling and Applied Psychology, who explained that the School of Education is the logical place for special education programs, which are primarily for teacher preparation. Schools are moving toward the inclusion model, which is to include students with special needs in the classroom, and teachers, therefore, are seeking special education skills.

In response to a question about the caveat that no additional resources be committed, Professor Herman explained that, while the College of Arts and Sciences did not commit resources, it would take the needs of those programs into consideration along with the other needs of the college.

Professor Lowndes asked Professor Mason what assets and resources were being transferred along with the programs. Professor Mason responded that none were being transferred. He noted that the last Special Education teacher retired four years ago and was not replaced. Someone will cover the needed programs, as they are not large and do not require additional resources at present.

Professor Herman added that the State Board of Education required that the area of Special Education be covered, and so it is part of teacher training at the undergraduate level. What will happen in the future will depend on the whims of the State and on the number of students at the undergraduate level.

Professor Lowndes asked how many students were currently enrolled in the masters program. Professor Mason indicated there were eight or nine.

Dean Stellar explained that, since Education is critical to the University and CAS, resources will be allocated where needed to continue this mission. He favored a nuanced approach and added that he does not want to commit to hiring faculty before this complex matter is fully reviewed.

Professor Mason concluded the discussion by saying that the program has not been actively promoted in recent years, but several graduate students would like to acquire the special education certificate.

There being no objection, the Senate turned to a vote.

Vote: PASSED, 31-0-1.

- VII. **Proposed Department Name Change - Geology to Earth and Environmental Sciences.** Professor Herman moved the following resolution, and the motion was seconded. The resolution read as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate approve the proposal to change the name of the Department of Geology to Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, as approved by the Arts and Sciences College Council on 21 April 2003.

The floor was yielded to Professor Rosen who explained that the proposed name better represents what the department is doing now. Environmental science is where the jobs and Coop opportunities are.

Discussion followed on whether other departments were in favor of the proposed name and potential interdisciplinary developments with other departments. The consensus was favorable, overall.

Motion. Professor Platt called the question.

Vote on cloture: PASSED, 31-0-0.

Vote on the resolution: PASSED, 31-0-1.

As time had run out, a motion was made to adjourn.

Adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John G. Flym
Secretary, Faculty Senate