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Faculty Senate meeting minutes: 01/24/2007

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TO: FACULTY SENATE
FROM: STUART S. PETERFREUND, SECRETARY, FACULTY SENATE
RE: MINUTES, 2006-07 FACULTY SENATE MEETING, 24 JANUARY

Present: (Professors) Alper, Bosso, Bruns, Cokely, Fox, Gilbert, Glod, Hansberry, Herman, Hill, Janikian, McKnight, Peterfreund, Reucroft, Reynolds, Robinson-Wood, Sherman, Starr, Wallin, Welch, Willey, Zaremba
(Administrators) Abdelal, Finkelstein, Hopey, Metghalchi, Sridhar, Zoloth

Absent: (Professors) Daynard, Hafner, Hall, Kane, Krishnamoorthy, Meador, Sanchez, Strauss, Touran
(Administrators) Falcon, Moore, Putnam, Stellar

Provost Abdelal convened the meeting at 11:58 AM.

I. The minutes of 17 January were deferred.

II. **SAC Report.** Professor Glod reported that the Senate Agenda Committee met once since the last Senate meeting. The Agenda Committee has been asked to convene a committee to search for a dean of the School of Pharmacy. Several search committees have been staffed as follows:

Biology Dept chair search committee (an external search):

Elected members:

Professor Geoffrey Trussell (Biology)
Professor Kim Lewis (Biology)
Professor Richard Marsh (Biology)

Appointed members:

Professor Paul Champion (Physics)
Professor Dana Brooks (Electrical & Computer Engineering)

Math Dept chair search committee (an internal search):

Elected members:

Professor Terrence Gaffney (Mathematics)
Professor Thomas Sherman (Mathematics)
Professor Andrei Zelevinsky (Mathematics)

Appointed members:

Professor Alain Karma (Physics)
Professor Gilead Tadmor (Electrical & Computer Engineering)

IV. Provost Abdelal had nothing new to report since the last Senate meeting; therefore, he opened the floor to questions.

Professor Herman reminded the Senate that the Ph.D. listing in the Humanities category within the College of Arts & Sciences includes History as well as English. Both departments have been updating their websites and a list of external commentators has been solicited from both departments as well. He noted that internally, the History Department is classified as a Social Science.

Professor Reucroft inquired about the status of a new Faculty Handbook. Provost Abdelal explained that resolutions were sent to the President's office about a year ago but there was not sufficient time for President Freeland to review them prior to leaving office. The current President has had many other issues to consider. Professor Peterfreund added that the Bylaws were sent to the President's office during the summer of 2005 after Senate approval during the 2004-05 academic year. After discussion with the Senate Agenda Committee during that summer, President Freeland forwarded the Bylaws to the Trustees with the recommendation that they not be accepted. Absent closure on the Bylaws, the bulk of the Handbook is equivocal.

Professor Wallin urged that faculty be lenient toward students who cannot attend class on Friday, 30 March [which has been designated a Monday schedule] due to work schedules.

V. **Proposed suspension of the French major.** Professor Cokely moved the following resolution and it was seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED That the French major in the Department of Modern Languages be suspended until such time as the Department submits a proposal to reinstate that is supported by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (as previously approved by the Department of Modern Languages and the CAS Council).

Professor Cokely explained that the French major has been in state of difficulty for several years and has not had enough majors. It currently has a literary focus and there has been a decline in interest in the literature-based French major. In response to Professor Sherman's question, he explained that current courses will remain in place but no students will be admitted to the major. Students currently in the pipeline will be graduated with the French major. He noted that nationally, French enrollments have declined by 24%.

Professor Herman explained the need for a more robust, integrated series of majors that encompass a wide variety of disciplines such as a French major that focuses not on French literature but the full expanse of the francophone world—francophone Africa, the Caribbean, and Asia, for example—in which the language plays an important part, but the major is not as limiting as had been the case in the past. Professor Cokely added that the intention is to revamp the entire Department of Modern Languages in order to provide such flexibility.

Responding to Professor Janikian, Professor Cokely explained that the French minor is very healthy and there will be no adverse effects on those students taking French to fulfill the language requirement. The Department will also be looking at the current study abroad requirement.

The Senate briefly discussed the New York University model before turning to a vote.

Vote to suspend the French major, PASSED: 25-0-0.

VI. **Proposed 2007 Tenure Clock Extension Policy.** Professor Robinson-Wood moved the following resolution and it was seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate adopt the tenure clock policy proposed by the Office of the Provost.

This resolution came before the Senate last fall and was postponed to a time definite in order that it be reviewed by Human Resources Management and University Counsel. The floor was yielded to Acting Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Advancement Wadia-Fascetti who explained that the policy that the tenure clock policy was intended to supersede was outdated. She then opened the floor to questions.

Professor Zaremba asked what, under II, paragraph 1, would constitute “extraordinary family-related responsibilities” and whether those should be enumerated. Professor Wadia-Fascetti and the Provost explained that each request would be reviewed on a case by case basis by the department chair, the dean and, finally, the Provost.

Responding to Professor Herman’s question, Professor Wadia-Fascetti explained that the sentence stating “Births or adoption of more than one child at a time will result in a single year of tenure clock extension” is meant to clarify multiple births as there had been specific discussion of that topic.

Professor Bruns explained that she had understood the intent to be that only one automatic extension is offered but the language on the document is not clear on that point. This was discussed by the Senate and resulted in a friendly amendment by Professor Peterfreund to modify the sentence under I. to read “*Any subsequent leaves as described above must be applied for and approved as described below in (III).*” The friendly amendment was accepted.

Vice President Pendergast of Human Resource Management explained that the Federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) is a leave of absence with the guarantee of a job upon return. It does not address tenure clock extensions.

Professor Alper wondered if tenured faculty should be involved in the decision to extend the tenure clock since tenure decisions are made by those same faculty and there could be factors that affect the department. The Provost responded that this University-wide policy does not address the specific context of each department and that there are issues of confidentiality to be considered. The Provost also explained that the process is sequential and must flow from the department chair to the dean to the provost. All three persons do not need to agree. Professor Herman clarified that the sequence allows for greater levels of distance and expertise from what is happening in the unit.

Professor Zaremba again suggested that the document identify specific criteria for what is considered extraordinary so that recourse is available to the faculty whose request is denied. Professor Bosso reminded the Senate that there is a grievance procedure in place for an occurrence such as this and the Provost added that judgments are regularly made without there being an explicit policy. Finally, Professor Peterfreund pointed out that the Faculty Handbook clearly speaks to the question of who makes the faculty member’s assignment, and that is the chair. In issues of confidentiality it is the chair, again, who has access to confidential materials.

In response to Professor Glod’s question, Professor Wadia-Fascetti offered that, while policies at other universities cover the full gamut from no policy at all to very liberally granted extensions, the norm is a one-year extension.

The question was called and, there being no objection, a vote was taken.

Vote to accept the 2007 Tenure Clock Extension Policy, as amended, PASSED: 23-0-1.

The meeting adjourned at 12:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart S. Peterfreund, Secretary
Faculty Senate