

**College of Journalism and Communications**  
**Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Feb. 27, 2007**

Attending: Dave Carlson, Johanna Cleary, Julie Dodd, Mary Ann Ferguson, Bridget Grogan, Cynthia Morton, Henri Pensis, Marilyn Roberts  
Absent: Juan Carlos Molleda

The College's Faculty Senate met for its first regular meeting on February 27, 2007. Dodd called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Julie Dodd was nominated to serve as Senate Chair. No other nominations were offered. Dodd was unanimously elected.

Mary Ann Ferguson was nominated to serve as Senate Vice Chair. No other nominations were offered. Ferguson was unanimously elected.

Senators discussed meeting times and agreed to meet on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 10:30 until the end of the semester.

Dodd noted John Wright's desire to establish a planning and budget committee and get it going this semester.

During a discussion about committees, Ferguson pointed out that there are currently more than 120 committee seats throughout the college that have to be filled every year. Some committees never meet while others meet only once a year. She suggested some committees can be combined. She also noted that some committees, such as the International, Research and Graduate Committees, are running well and may not need to change. It was noted that the Senate needs to determine how committee elections will be conducted.

Senators discussed their vision for the Senate and their perceived roles:

- Morton expressed the desire for a focus on transparency and open communication within the College.
- Pensis said an understanding of station challenges among college faculty and faculty challenges among station members will be beneficial.
- Cleary noted the importance of encouraging what faculty members do well and making sure they understand they are a key part of the process.
- Carlson noted that some might perceive an adversarial relationship between the administration and the faculty and stated the Senate will help overcome that perception. He stated the Senate will be an effective connection between the administration and the faculty. He also expressed hope that there would be absolute transparency and no violation of Sunshine laws in the Senate's work.
- Roberts discussed the need to "incentivize" the College, through distance education and international efforts, for example. She noted the usefulness of the Pappas Report to the Board of Governors that discusses a bundle of "soft skills" and their importance to the

state, such as communication, working in teams, and critical thinking. The report came out in January 2007 and offers a “big Picture” future viewpoint and contains many recommendations for higher education. Roberts will forward a copy of the report to the Senate.

- Ferguson noted that people in other colleges have more ownership. She noted the Journalism College has always seemed out of step with the rest of the University. She noted there cannot be trust without transparency and mutual accountability. She also expressed a desire to clarify roles and have representative participation via elected committees rather than appointed committees.

- Dodd sees the Faculty Senate as a way to have a more collaborative approach to things. She said the College will have more synergy if members do not confine themselves to one way of thinking.

Dodd noted that it would be important for a Senator from each unit to report back to his/her department within a day and provide an update on the Senate meetings.

There was additional discussion about the Senate regarding Sunshine laws. Dodd noted that the group is an elected board. Ferguson stated that Senators should not communicate outside of the meetings about topics likely to come up for a Senate vote. She pointed out that college senates are considered public bodies but college faculties are not.

The Shared Governance Committee has been working on committee structure. Dodd noted that the SG Committee wants to continue that discussion and possibly work on revisions to the college’s constitution.

Carlson moved that the Faculty Senate delegate to the Shared Governance Committee the responsibility to develop recommendations on restructuring the college committees and revising the constitution as needed. The motion passed unanimously.

There was further discussion of the need to establish a budget committee, at Dr. Wright’s request. Dodd noted that a budget committee might include members of the Senate, members appointed by Dr. Wright and department chairs, who would be ex-officio members.

A suggestion was made that the budget committee should report both to the dean and to the Senate.

Roberts moved to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bridget Grogan