

College of Journalism and Communications -- College Faculty Senate

Minutes of the meeting of Jan. 28, 2008

The faculty senate met at 10:40 a.m. on Jan. 28, 2008, in 2066 Weimer Hall. Present for all or part of the meeting were senators David Carlson, Julie Dodd, Bridget Grogan, Belio Martinez, Cynthia Morton, Henri Pensis and Marilyn Roberts. Also present were Senior Associate Dean Linda Hon and Robyn Goodman, chair of the college Constitution Committee.

Dodd welcomed Martinez, who is serving as a representative of the Public Relations Department while Mary Ann Ferguson is on sabbatical.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of Dec. 13, 2007 were approved on a motion by Pensis and second by Morton. The Senate then discussed creating an official repository of its minutes. It was decided that there will be two repositories – the college Web site and the dean’s office. The process will be the following: After minutes are approved by the Senate, the minutes-taker will be charged with sending those approved minutes to the person who presided at the meeting, usually the Senate chair. The presiding officer then will send them on to Craig Lee for posting on the Web and to Hon. Hon will see that the dean’s office staff sets up an “official repository” of the minutes in addition to the Web site.

Faculty meetings for spring semester: Dodd explained that the college usually holds two faculty meetings per semester, one called by the faculty and another called by the dean at the end of the semester. She said more meetings will be needed this spring because the Senate and Constitution Committee hope to get a new constitution approved by the faculty before the end of the semester. After discussion about various proposals the constitution may include, it was decided that faculty meetings will be held at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27, March 26, April 16, and Friday, April 25. There’s also a dean-called faculty meeting scheduled at 4 p.m. Feb. 5.

College Constitution: Goodman explained that the Constitution Committee, in consultation with the dean, is considering several proposals for changes in the committee structure. These include dividing the faculty-development/diversity committee in half with diversity becoming a dean’s committee. A new committee called Undergraduate Affairs would cover scholarships, petitions and appeals, student organizations, student concerns with administration, enrollment management and accreditation. The Curriculum Committee might be reformatted to include the Convergence Task Force.

Administrative council also may change. Rather than have a representative from every department, it might be adequate to have just a representative of the Senate, and senators either could rotate through or have one senator attend all of the meetings.

One issue that remains is clarifying the difference dean's committees and elected committees.

Senators concurred that the proposed committee structure should be sent to the departments first, then to meetings of the entire faculty, first as discussion item, then as an action item.

Whether the constitution can be approved this semester depends on how quickly some things come out of the Senate, Goodman said. It's feasible it could be finished this semester, but there are two parts to the puzzle: Structure of committees and how they are elected.

In another meeting or two the constitution committee will have the committee structure and duties mapped out and those can go to the department level for discussion, Goodman said.

In terms of populating the committees, we have done it in two ways in the past. We have held elections for some (Senate and T&P, for example) and we've given names to Dean Hon to indicate which committees we would like to serve on. The proposal now is to hold an annual election.

Senators agreed the college should have departmental meetings to discuss the committees and the election process. Those meetings are to be coordinated by the senators and constitution committee members from each department. We will schedule those meetings through our chairs for the week of Feb. 18.

Senate Vice Chair: Roberts and Carlson moved to elect Grogan vice chair of the senate for this semester while Ferguson is on sabbatical. She was approved by acclamation.

Meetings for spring semester: The Senate will meet 4th period every other Monday. The next meeting was set for Feb. 11.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m. on a motion from Carlson and a second from Roberts.

Respectfully submitted,

David Carlson, acting secretary

Minutes approved at Feb. 11, 2008 Senate meeting