

**College Faculty Senate – Minutes for Dec. 11, 2008**  
**College of Journalism and Communications**

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m. by Chair Mary Ann Ferguson.

Members present were: Johanna Cleary, Julie Dodd, Mary Ann Ferguson, Robyn Goodman, Bridget Grogan, Mike Mitrook, Henri Pensis, Marilyn Roberts and Kim Walsh-Childers. Also in attendance: Linda Hon.

The minutes from the Nov. 20, 2008 meeting were approved.

**Recommendations from the Constitution Committee for voting on amendments to the College Constitution – Robyn Goodman**

Goodman reported that the university's position on faculty voting is that the faculty as a whole represents neither an appointed nor an elected body and doesn't fall under the Sunshine laws. Further, if we move to require all full faculty votes to be public, other open meetings requirements also would apply to all faculty discussions of college and/or departmental issues, including restrictions on any conversations between colleagues on issues on which the faculty might be voting. Goodman also explained that if the constitution states that amendments to the constitution require written, signed ballots, then Roberts Rules of Order specify that all votes of the faculty must follow the same procedure.

In addition, she reported that adoption of the new constitution must be completed following the procedures specified in the old constitution.

Dodd noted that Roberts Rules allow faculty votes via voice vote, a show of hands or a ballot vote, if called for; however, Roberts Rules prohibits requiring individuals to sign their ballots.

Goodman moved that the Senate forward to the full faculty a proposal to follow the current constitution's procedures for voting on the new constitution, which would mean using a mail ballot; it will be up to each individual faculty member whether to sign his or her ballot. Dodd seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the Senate on a voice vote.

**T & P report on process and criteria for promotion of Lecturers—Kim Walsh-Childers**

Walsh-Childers presented revised proposals from the Tenure & Promotion committee related to the processes and criteria to be used in the promotion of lecturers. The proposals incorporated revisions recommended during full faculty discussion of the proposals at the Nov. 20 faculty meeting. These revisions included deletion of language in the definition of "distinction" that questioned whether or not a lecturer's activities have merit. In addition, the proposal revised to recommend that appointment to Master Lecturer should require a record of meritorious performance, rather than satisfactory

performance. The Senate unanimously approved forwarding these proposals to the full faculty at the next faculty meeting.

**Report on distance learning—Marilyn Roberts**

Roberts presented highlights of results of the research the college has undertaken to assess faculty interest in and concerns about distance education. Key findings included concerns about (1) whether sufficient incentives would be provided for faculty who develop online courses; (2) how development and teaching of online courses would affect faculty members' workloads; and (3) whether participation in distance education would be voluntary. Roberts presented the college's current plan for beginning to offer online courses; program planners believe that within five years, the college could be offering three online master's degrees and three certificate programs.

**Meeting adjourned at 10 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Walsh-Childers