



Faculty Senate

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Oct 17, 2000

Cashion 303

MINUTES

Present: Abbott-Kirk, Adams, Auld, Baird, Beck, Bowery, Cannon, Cox, Curtis, Dunn, Farris, Gilcrest, Hanks, Jacobson, Johnson, Longfellow, Losey, McManness, Patton, Rust, Sanford, Sharp, Sparkman, Stanley, Stone, Weaver, Williams, Wilson, Yelderman, Young

Absent with notification:, Adams, Riley

Absent: Garland

I. Call to Order & Announcements.

Losey called the meeting to order at 3:35. Losey extended congratulations to Michael Jacobson on the birth of his daughter.

II. Consideration of Agenda

The printed agenda was distributed and approved by consent.

III. Consideration of Sept, 2000, Minutes

The minutes from the Sept meeting (distributed electronically prior to the meeting) were approved by consent.

IV. Old Business

A. Tenured Faculty Development Plan.

The Executive Council placed the following names in nomination at the September meeting of the Senate, to serve on the Tenured Faculty Development Plan Task Force

Bob Baird (A&S, Philosophy)

Mark Bateman (Education)

Georgia Green (Music)

Carole Hanks (Nursing)

Baxter Johns (A&S, Mathematics)

Linda Livingstone (Business)

Dan McGee (A&S, Religion)

with Jim Patton serving as the chair.

No other nominations were made from the floor, and the task force was unanimously approved.

B. Part-time Faculty Policy (Marianne Auld)

Auld is in the process of contacting various faculty members to serve on the committee.

C. Polanyi Center/External Review Committee

Losey introduced Bill Cooper, Chair, External Review Committee of the Polanyi Center.

Cooper said that the University owes the Faculty Senate a debt of gratitude for raising this issue.

Cooper reported that the Review Committee members met on campus on Sept. 8 & 9, 2000. They met individually with R. Baird, S. Rosenbaum, M. Beaty, W. Dembski, B. Gordon, L. Lyon, and B. Pierce.

Cooper then addressed the following questions raised by Senators:

Q: Recommendation #2 states, "the Institute should be free, if it chooses, to include in its coverage this line of work, when carried out professionally." [emphasis added]. Does the committee mean by this "peer-reviewed publication?"

A (Cooper): We noted only 2 scholarly publications on the question of Intelligent Design. We were "not impressed with political activities and propaganda."

Follow-up **Q: Is the Provost aware of this?**

A: Yes.

Q: Is an Institute with only 2 full-time faculty adequate to carry out this task?

A: That will be a decision made by the Advisory Committee.

Q: The Committee recommends that Dembski and Gordon be placed, full-time, within the Institute for Faith and Learning. Will this grant them faculty status?

A: No.

[NB: The official title for Dembski, according the University Press Releases, is "associate research professor in conceptual foundations of science." Gordon's title is "Assistant Research Professor." --CW]

Q: Will the Discovery Institute continue to fund their salaries?

A: Dembski has a 5-year contract, the first 18 months of which are funded by the Discovery Institute. The University will pick up the remaining 3.5 years. Gordon has a 2-year contract. Late last spring the University engaged in serious negotiations with Dembski about early termination of their contracts, but both refused to settle.

Q: Can the Administration expect faculty to pursue an academic agenda while not speaking as a faculty member to the media?

A: Dembski and Gordon are not faculty, and thus do not have the academic freedom accorded faculty. Rather, they are administrative staff, serving at the behest of the Administration.

Follow-up **Q: Do faculty who are critical of the agenda and goals of the Polanyi Center and/or the Institute for Faith and Learning**

reserve the academic freedom to present their criticism publicly?

A: This clearly falls within the academic freedom of faculty.

Q: To whom does the oversight committee report? Will the committee also oversee the work of the Institute of Faith and Learning?

A: The reporting lines are not yet identified. However, the External Review Committee envisioned two different oversight committees: a) a committee to oversee the work of the Institute of Faith and Learning in general; and b) a committee to oversee any specific group whose task is to examine the relationship between science and religion (e.g., the entity formerly known as the Polanyi Center)

Following Cooper's remarks, Beck moved that Losey contact the Administration, asking that the Faculty Senate be involved in the formation of both oversight committees. The motion was seconded by Cannon, and passed unanimously.

Weaver made the following motion:

The Faculty Senate commends the members of the Polanyi Center External Review Committee and the chair, William F. Cooper, for their diligence in producing a balanced, reasonable report along with constructive recommendations. We further wish to thank our colleague Bill Cooper for his leadership in this important endeavor.

The motion was seconded by Beck, and passed unanimously.

D. Bruce Watson/Dismissal Committee

Conversation between attorneys for both parties is now taking place.

E. Information Systems Usage Policy

The Executive Committee reviewed the existing policy, and made the following suggestions: Policy #3 be amended as follows (strikethrough deleted, bold face added):

3. Electronic files (including electronic mail, computer files, and voice mail) are presumed to be private and confidential unless they have explicitly been made available to other authorized individuals. Their contents may be accessed only by authorized personnel for compelling business or security reasons and only with the approval of the President or a Vice President the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

(faculty) or the Vice President for Human Resources (staff).

The Executive Committee also made the following recommendation to Policy #11:

.... A violation of this policy will be dealt with in the same manner as a violation of other university policies and may result in a disciplinary review having been determined by due process [or having been established by guidelines and procedures]. In such a review, the full range of disciplinary sanctions is available, including the loss of information systems usage privileges, dismissal from the University and legal action.....

Losey reported that in discussion with Don Hardcastle, Hardcastle pointed out that (in relation to the revision of Policy #3) not all staff report to the Vice President for Human Resources. Furthermore, oversight of students would be through Steven Moore's office. There were also some uncertainties about the revisions suggested to Policy #11. Losey will pursue both of these issues.

Losey also reported on the procedures under which the information on faculty computers can be discovered. (As the Watson investigation is still on-going, no details of this specific case were provided.) According to Hardcastle, four different technicians from ITC are authorized to complete these upgrades, and confidentiality of the files is always an issue. During the upgrade, files are temporarily moved to a temporary storage site, the computer is upgraded, and the files are restored. Following the reinstallation of the files, several files are opened and checked to confirm that the transfer was successful. If during this process violations of the usage policy are discovered, ITC administration is notified immediately.

Losey asked Hardcastle about ITC policy for maintaining confidentiality. Hardcastle responded that the sheer volume of traffic is so vast (80,000 e-mail messages each day) that this would be impossible. Senators asked that Losey pursue the following:

- Hardcastle's response to questions of confidentiality dealt with the impracticality of monitoring, not whether it is a violation of policy. Issues of practicality aside, does ITC have a policy expressly prohibiting administrative access without proper cause?
- Does the university operate "filtering" programs for use with e-mail?
- What is done (and what might be done) with the usage

monitoring data collected from each computer at "shut down?"

Losey will follow up with these questions and report back to the Senate.

F. President's Faculty Forum, 10/25/00

Questions have been collated, edited, and prioritized by the Senate Executive Committee. Senators were encouraged to attend and to remind their colleagues to do the same.

G. Reminder of small group meeting with the President, 10/18/00

V. New Business

A. Contribution to the Retirement Plan for Senior Lecturers

Losey wrote to M. Crone, asking that the University reconsider its policy of awarding Lecturers and Senior Lecturers the same retirement plan. The letter is included as Appendix A.

B. Joint Faculty/Stall Habitat for Humanity Project.

At the request of M. Crone, the Senate was asked to approve a one-time joint service and fundraising project benefiting Habitat for Humanity. The Executive Committee met with Crone previously, and recommends approval of the joint project.

C. Co-Payment Schedule/Health Insurance For Single Persons.
Deferred.

VI. Committee/Liaison Reports

A. Faculty Committee on Academic Freedom, Responsibility, and Environment (M. Auld, Chair).

No additional report.

B. Faculty Committee on Enrollment Management (R. Cannon, Chair).

Enrollment for Fall, 2000, was 2843, with approximately 500 transfer students. A target of 2800 was set for Fall, 2001. Currently, the number of acceptance decisions is greater than this time last year.

C. Faculty Committee on Physical Facilities (J. Yelderman, Chair).

No report.

D. Faculty Committee on Student Life and Services (R. Wilson, Chair).

Wilson distributed student attitude-involvement survey results.
Additional information will be forthcoming.

E. Liaison Reports:

- Athletic Council (M. Dunn, Liaison). Academic performance has improved. A NCAA report is being prepared this year.
- Staff Council (J. Abbott-Kirk, Liaison). No report.
- Benefits and Personnel Committee (F. Curtis, Liaison). The University has changed retirement plans and also added new vendors for retirement contributions.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Weaver

[Senate Faculty Home](#)