

# **Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting**

**October 1, 2008**

**Woodard Hall (Red Room)**

The meeting came to order at 4:01 pm and after a half-hour informal discussion in the Red Room of Woodard Hall.

## **Minutes**

The minutes from the Faculty Senate meeting on September 3, 2008 were approved unanimously.

## **Reports**

**Nina Mikhalevsky, Acting Provost.** No report.

**Rosemary Barra, Interim Dean of the Faculty.** No written report.

Barra reminded everyone about upcoming events in which President Judy Hample planned to discuss her vision of the University with the faculty.

**John Morello, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs.** No report.

**Doug Holcombe, Chair, Academic Council, CGPS.** No report.

**Mary Rigsby, President of the Senate.**

Report distributed with agenda packet.

Charles Sharpless (Chemistry) asked for clarification about what constituted effective senate performance as presupposed by the questions on the faculty survey.

Rigsby noted that we should return to the Faculty Handbook for clarification on the duties and responsibilities of senators. She also listed other governance needs, including release time from teaching, funding for guest speakers, and funding to send senators to professional meetings so that we might mentor ourselves on university governance procedures at other institutions.

Gary Stanton (Historic Preservation) opined that we should avoid a structure of governance that is too bureaucratic. He advocated a governance structure that honors individual responsibility and honesty and that speaks on behalf of everyone within the body.

Rigsby suggested that we might think about how to modify Patrick Shaw's (AAUP) points from the prior meeting about the university governance agency to our own condition at UMW.

Eric Gable (SA) noted that it is in our hands to make the senate a creative place that reflects our needs. We have a platform and need to figure out how our work can suit the university at large.

**Suzanne Summer, President-Elect of the Senate.** Report distributed with agenda packet.

**Colin Turner, Student Representative.**

Students will be working on the fair for majors, which will be scheduled for October in Ball circle on a Wednesday or Thursday afternoon. The information tables will be run by students.

## **Standing Committees**

### **Academic Affairs Committee**

Report distributed with agenda packet. A long discussion ensued here regarding procedure of assigning an “incomplete” course grade. Faculty also shared personal experiences in order to illustrate the effectiveness and/or ineffectiveness of the current policy. What follow are the highlights. A question was asked about the role that the faculty had in deciding the appropriateness of the “incomplete” course grade. Currently, the administration handles the matter on its own and this procedure seems to deprive the faculty of grading prerogatives. Several replies noted that this is still a joint decision made between the administration and the faculty. In fact, the administration sees itself as helping faculty with respect to the issue. Turner noted that having a mediator between faculty and students made it easier for students. Anand Rao (ELC) applauded the fact that having the administration as an intermediary gives students the impression that incompletes are not easy to come by at UMW. Barra noted that there were only 10 to 20 “incompletes” granted last year and that these are usually due to extensive illness and emergency and that this designation requires agreement from the faculty member. In addition, she noted that objective decision-making was sometimes skewed as a result of friendly faculty-student relations and that it is therefore advisable that UMW involve the administration as a third party in the process.

**Campus Academic Resources Committee.** No report.

**Curriculum Committee.** Report distributed with agenda packet.

**Faculty Affairs Committee.** No report.

**Faculty Development and Grants Committee.** No report.

**Faculty Organization Committee.** Report distributed with agenda packet.

**Promotion and Tenure Committee.** No report.

**Bachelor of Liberal Studies Committee.** No report.

**Budget Advisory Committee.** No report.

## **Curriculum Advisory Committees**

**First Year Seminar Committee.** Report distributed with agenda packet.

**General Education Committee.** Report distributed with agenda packet.

**Writing Intensive Committee.** Report distributed with agenda packet.

**Speaking Intensive Committee.** Report distributed with agenda packet.

## ***Ad hoc* Committees**

**Ernest Ackermann, Faculty Advisory Committee for the UMW Teaching Center.**

No report.

**George Meadows and Kim Kinsley, UMW University Faculty Governance Study Group.**

Report was distributed at the meeting. A long discussion ensued regarding a question asked by Rigsby. I have noted the highlights in what follows. Rigsby suggested that the Study Group change its name to the University governance study group (not faculty), in order to eliminate the sense that the group is seeking alternatives to the senate body without consulting the faculty first. Meadows replied that trying to figure out the level of integration that Hample envisions and trying to figure out what is entailed therein (what the overarching structure is) is precisely what the task of the Study Group is at the present time. Barra noted that the “Faculty” in the title is apt inasmuch as it refers to the inclusive faculty at all UMW campuses.

A discussion ensued about the interconnectedness of the different campuses, including the differences in financial allocation, the double Dean models that were present before the arrival of former University President William Frawley, and the value of retaining a faculty-led governing structure that also honors the individuality of separate campuses. There was advice proffered about avoiding too many *ad hoc* committees and the way in which power will be distributed across the university if the campuses are integrated in a manner that does recognize individual strengths and past traditions. Rigsby reminded everyone that we have a faculty handbook that outlines faculty rights that could not be changed overnight. Asked by Marcel Rotter (MDFL) what the committee had done for the past eight months, Meadows replied that the committee had thus far planned the upcoming conference, built a database on other institutions, and generally gathered information.

## Old Business

None.

## New Business

Reports from First Year Seminar Committee, General Education Committee, Writing Intensive Committee, and the Speaking Intensive Committee accepted without challenge.

### Motion from Academic Affairs Committee

Motion distributed with agenda packet. Passed unanimously.

**Motion:** The Academic Affairs Committee requests that the Faculty Senate consider the editing of the Dictionary of Academic Regulations regarding IB credit in order to reflect current policy. We propose the following changes to the last paragraph of page 22 of the Dictionary:

**“Credit is awarded at the time of matriculation and is based on the scores earned on the *Higher Level IB examinations* ~~or the completed IB diploma.~~”**

**Rationale:** There has been an inconsistency between the Dictionary of Academic Regulations and actual practice. Whereas the Dictionary does state that the University awards course credit for students with IB diplomas, the University has only awarded course credit for Higher Level IB examinations. To reflect current policy, we request that mention of course credit awarded for the completion of the IB diploma be removed. Also, we would like to clarify that the University only awards credit for the *Higher Level IB examinations* (as opposed to the Standard IB examinations), as stated elsewhere in the Dictionary. The alternative, which would be to begin awarding course credit for the completion of the IB diploma, would lower the standards by which the University awards credit, since the IB diploma does not meet the same level of academic standards as the *Higher Level IB examinations*.

### Motion to explore changing requirements for election of Senators

Motion distributed with agenda packet. Moved and seconded by Senators Gable and Rao. Opened for discussion.

Rao applauded the motion and stated that it gets to the issue of the role of the faculty senate and its perception on campus. Mary-Beth Matthews (CPR) noted that she would favor a shift in terms of service to at least 2 year. Unlike terms and election formats based upon seniority and/or juniority, this new format would preserve institutional memory from year to year. Several senators noted that different departments have different approaches to senate service (for better or worse). While some departments had faculty members who served over and over again, in other departments, many faculty got the opportunity to serve from early on in their careers.

After a long discussion, the motion was amended and approved.

**Motion:** that FOC be assigned the task of making a recommendation regarding criteria for membership in the Faculty Senate, including but not restricted to consideration of eligibility of non-tenured faculty, or faculty having fewer than three years of full time teaching at UMW. The goal of the recommendation is to make a more effective Faculty Senate. We ask that the FOC provide a detailed rationale for the recommendation.

Following Section A.7.1 of the Faculty Handbook, Rigsby indicated that she will refer this request to FOC.

[Section A.7.1: “Motions made from the floor by senators, after being properly seconded, shall be referred to an appropriate standing committee of the meeting by the Faculty President.”]

### **Motion to establish ad hoc committees**

Rigsby presented the Senate with motions to establish a UMW CAS Faculty Senate Website and to review the Faculty Handbook in relationship to traits of effective senates listed by AAHE National Network of Faculty Senates and the AAUP indicators of sound governance. She suggested that these two tasks be assigned to two newly established ad hoc committees, as there is no obviously appropriate committees already in place to address these needs and requested the Senate’s recommendation on how to proceed.

Rigsby noted that the Faculty Senate responsibilities include, as stated in **Faculty Handbook Section 2.1.3.8, the development and supervision of a committee system** for the orderly exercise of the authority that has been delegated to it. After discussion, Senators directed Rigsby to send this request to FOC. Following **Faculty Handbook Section A.7.1, Rigsby will request that FOC create two ad hoc committees for the tasks.**

### **Motion to survey faculty satisfaction with administration**

The Senate seconded an amended motion initially brought to the Senate by Anand Rao on behalf of Teresa Kennedy (ELC). The motion, copied below, asks that there be a survey of faculty satisfaction with UMW administration. Senators expressed interest in having the survey include relevant questions about faculty satisfaction with the Faculty Senate as well.

Because FAC has conducted such surveys in the past, the Senate did not recommend establishing a separate ad hoc committee for Faculty Senate survey research at this time. Rigsby will request that FAC conduct the survey.

**Motion:** That the Faculty Senate conduct a survey of faculty evaluating all administrators, including program directors such as disability services, international programs, and the registrar, in addition to senior level administrators. The survey should include questions about faculty perspectives on the Faculty Senate as well.

**Rationale:** Administrative evaluations have not been done in more than five years. The data collected from a survey of faculty satisfaction with administrative leadership and support services would be helpful in identifying problems in need of attention, provide useful guidance in setting goals for improvement, and contribute to the general welfare of the University community.

## **Announcements**

Reminder that all Senators – and all faculty -- should register for and plan to attend the UMW Faculty Governance Conference scheduled for Friday, October 24, at CGPS. Senators are asked to cancel their classes for this important event. There is no registration fee for this conference. The Program begins at 8:00 a.m. and concludes at 5:30 p.m. Questions about the conference should be addressed to Dr. Angela Gosetti-Murrayjohn – [FACGOV@UMW.edu](mailto:FACGOV@UMW.edu)

Stanton asked if there would be an administrative move to cancel classes for the upcoming conference. Barra replied that cancelling classes would be up to the individual instructor.

Meeting adjourned at 5:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Antonio Barrenechea  
Department of English, Linguistics, and Communication