



Faculty Senate Meeting 532
November 29, 2012
12:45 p.m. in SC 109

Present: *Wai Mok, Chris Allport, Jeet Gupta, Derrick Smith, Angela Balla, Kwaku Gyasi, Christine Sears, Carolyn Sanders, Deborah Heikes, Anne Marie Choup, Bhavani Sitaraman, Mitch Berbrier, Jeff Kulick, David Pan, Sherri Messimer, Kader Frendi, Jeff Evans, Faye Anderson, Ina Warboys, Anna Benton, Peggy Hays, Phillip Bitzer, Luciano Matzkin, James Baird, Peter Slater, Claudio Morales, Leonard Choup, Richard Miller, Jakobus le Roux, Nikolai Pogorelov, Brent Wren*

Absent with Proxy: *Charles Hickman, Eletra Gilchrist, Eric Seemann, Marlena Primeau,*

Absent without Proxy: *Keith Jones, David Neff, Ramon Cerro, James Blackmon, Mohamed Ashour, Carmen Scholz, Debra Moriarity, Tim Newman*

Guests: *Robert Altenkirch*

- Senate Meeting 532 was called to order at 12:46 by Dr. Richard Miller.
- **Approval of Minutes** moved by Ina Warboys, seconded by Carolyn Sanders. Minutes approved.
- Motion to set aside the agenda to hear reports moved by James Baird and seconded by Ramon Cerro
- **President AltenKirch's Report:** Updates—the Greenway is scheduled for Spring 13, there will be no fountain—for financial and mischief reasons. There will be a concrete slab and we will entertain having a piece of art for it. Charger Union—scheduled for Fall 13, Nursing scheduled for Fall 14, SWIRL scheduled for Fall 14, OBK Tech Hall scheduled for repair for Spring 14. We are looking at UC as a possibility for the Employee Health Center or Madison Hall. Talked about funding as well. Some is Federal, State, Student Fees, private revenue and plant funds. Madison Hall was talked about for Administration and making it the focal point. There are two other projects—University Place School—signed purchase agreement closing in the future—4 years out. We are working with the Superintendent to see if we can subdivide the land now and allow

us to build an entrance and parking lot. He is amenable to subdividing as long as it doesn't interrupt daily activities. Trinity Presbyterian is the other project. We are working with them. They have secured an appraisal and we will secure an appraisal and take a look at it. Also the Church of the Nazarene is there and if we purchase that we will have all the property to Austin Drive.

We are putting together an intranet portal. Showed public website. Talked about Banner and we can use it to do admissions processes. Showed Charger Net old and new—new available only to current faculty, staff and students. There is stuff we routinely want faculty, staff and students to see but not for public. Over time it will become populated. Some things we don't want the public to have access to. Shortly there will be an announcement to explain this and then Charger Net and eventually Banner link will go away. Login is the LDAP. Only see what you are able to access.

Tactics are drafted—groups are developing tactics—relate to one or more objectives for the Strategic Plan. We have pulled out tactics that could be done right away and others have been given to groups to prioritize when they want to do them. Talked about web redesign and phone app. The draft Strategic plan is done with final review pending. Worked on the one exception regarding being a recognized leader in selected areas of education and research. Worked on but not lot of progress. There is a meeting tomorrow. We will put out a solicitation for mini proposals and take a look at these and see where we can go.

Hockey Saturday Night. Gave tickets. NCAA President and EJ Brophy are going Jan 17 to present and that is the last step of the process and they will decide if we are in or not.

Ramon Cerro mentioned communicating to faculty as whole. Bhavani Sitaraman-asked how will the solicitation be done and what are the areas. What is the process? How will you call for proposals? Tried having small group of people look at areas and made some progress but did not get very far. Best idea now is to put out and RFP for brief proposals but direct individuals to answer specific questions. i.e. is this based on an existing strength. Put together group to review. Two areas combined education and research and sometimes those overlap. Broadening an area in education but not strong in research right now. Criteria would be different depending on the area. A set of general questions to answer. They don't have to be the same and may not answer every question. OK may still have strengths. James Baird—I have some strong opinions and no one is listening. How do I get my ideas voiced—how do I get involved. Write a proposal. Dr. Richard Miller mentioned the infrastructure investment---Dr. Altenkirch stated he is asking each unit to generate an enrollment plan. Lead to decisions being made. Adding on margin—good deal for workforce development. Kader Frendi—proposal from individual-unit or department, etc. Does effort involve more than just one department, etc.? Example—video gaming—not just CS but across academic unit lines. Look at GA Tech—Mechanical or Aerospace Department. It is possible for them to do combustion in Aerospace Engineering —we are not large enough to do that. Strategic areas picked up prior to

proposals—Jeet Gupta—does it make sense to have areas identified prior to proposals. Dr. Altenkirch stated that in a sense we have some that are on the web. Encourage individuals in those areas to participate.

- **Associate Provost Wren**—The Provost is not here today. Comments are the same as those in the Senate Executive Committee. I will dispense those to get two more and get to Dean Smith. Faculty can obtain parking passes for Commencement from Peggy in SKH 364. You will have to pay if do not pick up a parking pass. It is hockey season so we will be sitting on ice and will be cooler so dress warmly. Please read the comments the Provost made in the Executive Committee Meeting that was sent to you.
- Dr. Richard Miller introduced Dean Smith stating he asked to come and explain some changes made in internal funding. He will talk about that and entertain questions. There is an Ad hoc Research Committee and they had a meeting—Carmen Scholz not here to report but will report at the next meeting.
- **Interim VPR Dean Smith**: Thanks for the invitation—I am here for a short time—I was charged with the task to take a look at the structure of the VPR office and see if we can improve. Intramural funding—we handed out about half a million and split that in two—URI and Young Investigator. Distributed with two pools and two committees—not much overlap in the committees. No real rhyme or reason of how they are picked. VPR went to Deans and ask for members. It is a bit different from how other universities work. I was at Wisconsin, Hawaii, and Texas. They have a single research committee—faculty serve for 3 years on one committee and it is distributed across campus and you build expertise that way. Get longevity look at things and get that perspective. Take a look at that here. Build expertise and a broader perspective. Did homework. Met with two committees and asked for input about a single committee. Had some comments—raised questions that you might predict. Who chooses? How do I know my area is represented? Can I get money? Discussed this with Rich Miller and he said let's get the opinion of the Senate. Would like to get money out so you can use it. If the system is broke fix it and if it is not broke leave it alone. Ramon Cerro—lack of transparency in the process—give faculty confidence if they know the process is open and have input and know who is on the committee. Don't have advocate for Academic Research. Treated different. Proposed office for contracts and grants. Dean Smith—there is a need for transparency and it will happen on my watch. No anonymity—all will be transparent. Requires trust and cooperation on both sides—have to respect each other. Title and title of office misnomer in academic set—Office of Scholarship Development. Some cost more than others and some have access to extramural more than others. Looking at scholarship in the university. Peggy Hays—those on committee—lack of understanding and knowledge of those doing human subject research—take clear look at that. To what extent should the committee adhere to the strategic plan? Primary question have to decide right off the bat. Can debate everywhere. Guess –half million dollar pool committee would look at impact of scholarship not necessarily strategic plan. Other dollars to cover the

plan. This campus has disproportionate number in science and engineering in relation to liberal arts. How is money distributed? Issue to address but don't constrain committee with that kind of judgment. After we make decisions, rank order and divide money. VPR office decides how much to allocate to various areas and maintain a balance—art of administering the committee. Kader Frendi—how big is the committee—how many faculty, etc. Dean Smith—about 12 people. Additional Chair for tie breaker. Wisconsin—divided campus into quadrants. Get 3 from each quadrant. Clearly not every investigator or every discipline but we will do better to be representative. Who chooses the 12 people? Wisconsin went through debate. Inherited where members were handpicked by the VPR and Associate VPRs. Faculty Senate did not like that. Faculty want to have a say in who serves on a committee because it serves our interest. VPR resisted Senate vigorously with argument that they were all good people but need active researchers and need to understand enterprise. This was offensive to the senate. With the assistance of the Provost the VPR prevailed. VPR will choose and share and then have power or persuasion. At Hawaii and Texas Tech. Set up quadrants—went to deans and ask them to send names of 3 individuals who meet the criteria and I pick one. Use discretion in picking—worked out and acceptable to Senate. Richard Miller—if you have comments and concerns forward them to Richard Miller and he will share them with Dean and will do it quickly and keep open to input. Comment—James Baird—committee member may not submit a proposal. Dean Smith—members can submit proposals but it will come to the VPR and will get assistance to review and will use the same criteria. Ramon Cerro—comments regarding Committee and lack of transparency—who picked and who is on it. Reason for VPR to pick is that we have to consider larger picture items for diversity, switch hitter, more depth. Draw from list given by the Deans. Jeet Gupta—combine committees from two to one. Goal of awards different. What are the bounds of both committees and how do we combine them. Smith—faculty enjoy service on committees—exposes them to interesting information—the work load is not onerous. Met Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning. Not sure what we have here it is smaller. Hunch is people will be happy to serve. Two narrowly defined criteria—break down walls and bring together. Disenfranchises some.

Richard Miller stated if you have concerns, praises, etc. let him know so that he can forward them on.

- **Executive Committee Meeting Minutes:** David Neff moved, seconded by Jeet Gupta to accept. Minutes Accepted.
- **Officer Reports and Committee Reports are in the minutes**—anything to discuss outside what is there. Election to Faculty Appeals Committee: showed new members and alternates. Will get results for other elections to you when we get them.
- **Handbook**—Richard Miller stated we will have to call a special meeting—want to get it done. Now we have been working for over a year—it needs to come to an end. Special Meeting with the *Handbook* the only thing to do then we can wrap it up. Especially with submitted changes

ahead of time. Richard Miller will identify a date and let you know. Not going to open now and rush through.

- **Chapter 9**—One proposed change in Tuition Assistance—Dr. Hickman cleaned up the language. On the table—Jeet Gupta—appears from here if faculty came here and served and went away his or her dependents are eligible for assistance. Jeet Gupta does see a problem. Others do not. Richard Miller will entertain an amendment and if none forthcoming will move on. Richard Miller when we pass the *Handbook* and *Bylaws* it will go to the Administration and Legal and changes will be made there. Bhavani Sitaraman—will not be able to arrive at common decision that will be accepted. Any proposed changes. Mitch Berbrier amend to include in the first sentence “and adult sponsored dependents” Carolyn Sanders seconded. Amendments carried. Section passes. Vote on Chapter 9 as exists carried—passed. *Bylaws* left. Special meeting to knock that out. Start next semester with old fashioned Senate Business.
- Meeting Adjourned at 2:15 p.m.