FACULTY SENATE
Tuesday, April 28, 2015
3:30 – 4:45 pm
Senate Chamber, Old Capitol

MINUTES


Guests: B. Butler (Provost), D. Finnerty (Office of the Provost), M. Habashi (Lecturers Committee), J. Menninger (Emeritus Faculty Council), B. Nottingham-Spencer (Lecturers Committee), C. Sheerin (Lecturers Committee), A. Stapleton (Lecturers Committee), E. Stapleton (Student), J. Sulentic (Lecturers Committee), L. Zaper (Office of the Provost), illegible name (Faculty).

I. Call to Order – President Thomas called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm. She directed the current senators to move into the center seating area of the Senate Chamber, while newly-elected senators and guests should move to the side areas.

II. Approvals
   A. Meeting Agenda – Professor Campo moved and Professor Mallik seconded that the agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
   B. Faculty Senate Minutes (March 24, 2015) – Professor Gillan moved and Professor Seibert seconded that the minutes be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
C. Faculty Senate and Council Election Results – President Thomas presented the results of the 2015 Faculty Senate and Council elections. Professor Snyder moved and Professor Mallik seconded that the election results be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

D. 2015-2016 Committee Recommendations (Christina Bohannan, Chair, Committee on Committees) – Vice President Bohannan presented the recommendations of the Committee on Committees for individuals to fill vacant positions on charter, university and Faculty Senate committees beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year. The few remaining vacancies will be approved in the fall. Professor Gillan moved and Professor Muhly seconded that the 2015-2016 Committee Recommendations be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

E. 2013-2014 Motion Summary – Vice President Bohannan presented the 2013-2014 Motion Summary. Professor Mallik moved and Professor Sponsler seconded that the motion summary be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

III. New Business

- Research Council Charter Revisions (Edward Gillan, Chair, Research Council)

Professor Gillan explained that the Research Council is an advisory body to the Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development (OVPR&ED). He added that about a year and a half ago, the committee began discussing updating their charge, as well as modifying their membership requirements. The final version of the revised charge has been approved by the Vice President for Research and Economic Development, the Faculty Senate's Faculty Policies and Compensation Committee, and the Faculty Council.

Professor Gillan then described the specific changes made to the charge and membership criteria. Language noting a focus on economic development was added to the charge, as this is now an area of focus of the OVPR&ED. With the expanding opportunities on campus for undergraduate research, the committee felt that it was necessary to add the director of the Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates to the committee as a non-voting ex-officio member, as well as to add an undergraduate student as a voting member. Formerly, the two student members were graduate students, but the revised language indicates that only one student must be a graduate student. The committee also felt it was necessary to include a post-doctoral researcher in its membership. However, because post-doctoral researchers do not have a representative body in the shared governance structure, the appointment of the post-doctoral researcher member will need to be carried out by the Joint Nominations Committee of the undergraduate and graduate shared governance bodies “in consultation with the Graduate College and the University of Iowa Postdoctoral Association.”

Regarding faculty membership on the committee, the current division of the faculty members into two each from the humanities, physical sciences, biological sciences, and social sciences, and two at large, seemed to be a relic from an earlier time when internal funding initiatives utilized these area designations. Filling committee slots based on these requirements has been challenging for the Faculty Senate’s Committee on Committees. Faculty from the arts and engineering have sometimes been excluded and it has been unclear how faculty from the health sciences fit into these criteria. The Research Council has created more flexible language,
directing the Committee on Committees to appoint faculty members from a wide range of disciplines and funding sources, to assure maximum representation from the full spectrum of research, scholarship and creative work that faculty engage in across campus.

Professor Campo moved and Professor Mallik seconded that the revised Research Council charter be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

• Lecturers Committee Report (Anne Stapleton, Lecturer, English)

President Thomas explained that the Lecturers Committee had been formed three years ago by the Faculty Senate and charged with examining the situation of lecturers at the university and submitting a report with recommendations for improvement. The committee has fulfilled its charge and is presenting the report to the Senate today. President Thomas added that the Senate’s proposed vote today on the report is not for the purpose of approving the recommendations, but merely to accept the report, thank the committee for their three years of service, and maintain the committee for another year to assist in addressing the recommendations.

Professor Stapleton, chair of the Lecturers Committee, recognized and thanked the other four members of the committee: Meara Habashi from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Caroline Sheerin from the College of Law, Bruce Nottingham-Spencer from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Joseph Sulentic from the Tippie College of Business. She praised the group’s collaborative efforts across colleges and disciplines. Professor Stapleton also thanked Diane Finnerty, Director of Faculty Human Resources and Development in the Provost’s Office, for providing the committee with critical data throughout their years of work. In addition to this data, the committee based their report on findings from a survey of lecturers conducted last spring [survey results had been presented to the Senate in April 2014], as well as on a comparison of lecturer policies at CIC and Regents institutions.

While defined as “fixed-term” faculty in the Operations Manual, lecturers report not always being treated as faculty, Professor Stapleton commented. She noted that the committee of five lecturers constituted about 2% of campus lecturers and represented a cross-section of the university. Collectively this year the group has taught 1,438 students and 31 classes, ranging from small freshman seminars to large lecture courses, specialty classes for majors to post-graduate writing-intensive classes. The group members have served on 16 committees; two of the members served on dissertation committees. Their service commitments on the national or international level have sometimes required extensive travel. All of the members have been involved in advising, while some have trained teaching assistants and participated in Living-Learning Community activities, among other service and advising commitments. Regarding engagement, group members have collectively given 19 public talks this year on their areas of expertise, both within the university and throughout the state and beyond. These experiences of the committee members represent some of the ways in which lecturers function at the university.

Referring to the spring 2014 survey results, Professor Stapleton noted that while 54% of lecturers are satisfied with their positions, many feel disenfranchised and undervalued due to
unstable appointments and lack of clear career paths. The Lecturers Committee urges the Senate to consider and respond to the report recommendations, with the eventual result of a more equitable professional experience for lecturers and their inclusion as faculty within the campus community. Professor Stapleton then presented the report’s six recommendations, ordered to reflect the priorities of the lecturers who provided feedback via the survey and to provide a sequence for the Senate and university administration to address. Because having an institutional voice matters, the first recommendation is for representation at all levels of faculty governance, including on Faculty Senate. Lecturers seek to participate in decision-making on issues that directly affect them, such as curriculum formation and structure. The recent inclusion of a lecturer on the Council on Teaching has been a welcome first step in this direction.

Although one-third of lecturers have been employed at the university for at least six years, many lecturers remain unsure whether their appointments will be renewed. Therefore, the second recommendation is for development of a uniform process for hiring, promotion, and reappointment of lecturers. All lecturers experience unstable and unclear career paths, leading to job insecurity and sometimes to unfair practices. Presumptive renewal is key for long term contracts, in the opinion of the Lecturers Committee. The College of Law has implemented guidelines that could serve as a model for other colleges. Clear renewal criteria are often missing from lecturers’ contracts, which undermines job stability and the university’s commitment to lecturers.

Professor Stapleton stated that lecturers wish to be fairly compensated for their work. She referred the group to charts at the end of the report illustrating the differences in pay of lecturers with that of assistant, associate and full professors on the tenure track across the university. She also noted that lecturers are predominantly women, and “temporary” lecturer appointments are disproportionately held by women. The third recommendation, therefore, is for developing a system for evaluating and correcting salary equity for lecturers, as well as providing uniform benefits for all lecturers. Closely linked to the issue of compensation is the issue of workload. For lecturers, increase in workload does not necessarily lead to an increase in salary. The fourth recommendation calls for developing a system for determining and establishing equitable workloads for all lecturers. This would lead to higher morale among lecturers and better outcomes for lecturers and for students.

Not only are lecturers expected to engage in professional development activities to some degree, but lecturers themselves want to stay current in their fields. However, many report little to no access to funding for those activities. The fifth recommendation advocates for opening resource opportunities to lecturers at the departmental, collegiate and university levels to the extent that contracts require professional development, curricular and pedagogical innovation and/or scholarship activities. Towards that end, Professor Stapleton reported that lecturers were pleased to learn of the establishment this year of the Dean’s Distinguished Lecturer Award for excellence in teaching and service in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The sixth recommendation calls for a clearly defined grievance procedure for lecturers. Because lecturers are defined as fixed-term faculty by the Operations Manual, it would appear that they do not have access to the Faculty Dispute Procedures.
In conclusion, Professor Stapleton stated that lecturers fill an important role as highly qualified and dedicated faculty who contribute to the teaching mission of the University of Iowa. The Lecturers Committee recommendations seek to create a more inclusive campus community, to improve working conditions and compensation, and ultimately to increase the university’s ability to retain and recruit high-quality lecturers.

Professor Voigt asked how other universities handle the issue of grievance procedures for lecturers. Professor Habashi responded that many of the CIC institutions have identical procedures for lecturers as they have for other types of faculty. Lecturers are, in fact, considered faculty by many of these institutions. Lecturers who are considered academic staff, rather than faculty, by their institutions have their own grievance procedures. Professor Mallik asked how the order of the recommendations was determined. Professor Stapleton indicated that representation was first because 88% of survey respondents indicated that they would like to have representation on the Senate. This was the highest response to any survey question. Hiring, retention, and promotion issues also received a strong response. Compensation was the most frequent issue mentioned in the written comments. Professor Habashi commented that if lecturers were defined differently in the Operations Manual, many of these issues would be easier to resolve.

Referring to the charts illustrating differences in compensation for lecturers compared to faculty on the tenure track, Professor Gillan wondered if these differences might be partially explained by the hiring of lecturers without terminal degrees. Professor Stapleton responded that there are various practices across campus regarding hiring lecturers without terminal degrees. A clear set of expectations for lecturers campus wide, including whether a terminal degree is required, would be helpful. Information on degree status was not included in the data the committee received. Professor Wilcox commented that some of the recommendations, such as the one involving grievances, might be straightforward to handle. Representation on the Faculty Senate also seems possible to achieve after some months of committee work. Regarding salary issues, however, Professor Wilcox expressed doubt that salary discrepancies for any group of faculty have been fully resolved. Professor Stapleton commented that at least minimum salaries for lecturers might be established. Guidelines could also be implemented for workload and service requirements. Professor Habashi added that the Provost’s Office does periodically attempt to correct for salary discrepancies based on gender. Professor Durham raised the possibility of using grievance procedures to address issues of salary or workload inequity. Past President Fumerton cautioned that incorporating lecturers into the existing faculty grievance procedures, while fine in principle, might be more complicated in practice than originally thought.

Professor John Murry asked for further clarification regarding standards for salary equity for lecturers. Professor Seibert noted that research expectations are a factor in salary decisions for faculty on the tenure track. Professor Sheerin responded that lecturers are not seeking to be paid the same as faculty on the tenure track, but that the issue does warrant further investigation. Professor Murry followed up, wondering what was happening in the market to allow for lecturers to be paid relatively low salaries. Professor Sheerin acknowledged that this is a national problem, but added that it does not prevent UI from seeking its own solution.
Professor Stapleton added that other institutions have established relationships between the salaries of lecturers and those of faculty on the tenure track. Professor Mallik commented that, as a scholarly institution, we should look at factors in addition to market forces when considering these issues. Professor Habashi noted that, just as the majority of lecturers at UI are female, so are the majority of lecturers nationwide. Along with salary issues, gender issues need to be examined, both here at UI and nationally.

Professor Voigt questioned how lecturers could establish career paths when lecturers, particularly those with the designation “temporary,” face uncertainty from year to year regarding whether they will continue to be employed at the university. Professor Stapleton responded that it is unclear exactly what “temporary” means when applied to faculty, since “temporary” is only defined by the university in relation to staff. She added that, subsequent to the drafting of the report, most of those designated as temporary lecturers were moved to adjunct appointments, which seems more appropriate. Professor Stapleton stressed that the Lecturers Committee wishes to emphasize the lack of stability in lecturer positions. A recent promising development has been the creation of promotional senior track lecturer positions in various colleges.

Professor Abboud asked what the difference was between lecturers and adjuncts. Professor Stapleton noted that lecturers are “fixed-term” faculty; this category includes renewable-term faculty, adjuncts and visitors. Ms. Finnerty added that one distinction between lecturers and adjuncts is that adjunct appointments cannot exceed 50%. Lecturer appointments can be any percentage up to 100%. Adjunct appointments also tend to have a per-course basis. Professor Habashi commented that, unlike adjuncts and visitors, lecturers do not have access to grievance procedures. Secretary Vaughn observed that administrative definitional issues compound all of the equity issues facing lecturers. Professor Habashi stressed that definitional issues lie at the core of the committee’s six recommendations. She added that lecturers are often afraid to say no to additional responsibilities that detract from their teaching and scholarship because of the tenuous nature of their appointments. Professor Sheerin commented that, after her position became relatively more stable, she felt more invested in her collegiate community and more willing to take on extra responsibilities. Related to this point, Professor Seibert expressed concern about lecturers having representation and voting on important issues, while not having the protections of tenure.

Vice President Bohannan commented that the language regarding faculty needs to be clarified throughout the Operations Manual, not just in passages pertaining to fixed-term faculty. She also noted that while Faculty Senate could take the lead in addressing some of the report recommendations, on other issues the Senate would more likely play the role of conversation facilitator. She thanked the committee for their three years of work and she anticipated extensive but fruitful efforts ahead in the coming year as the recommendations are considered and perhaps implemented. Professor Stapleton expressed the opinion that, in general, respect for lecturers is improving across campus, although additional strides could be made. Students often do not know the difference between lecturers and faculty on the tenure track. Professor Abboud urged that clear definitions be formulated for lecturers and other types of fixed-term faculty.
Professor Menninger, of the Emeritus Faculty Council, asked if the committee had spoken with administrators about the advantages and disadvantages of fixed-term employees versus permanent tenure-track employees, as it appears that attitudes have been changing in recent years. Professor Stapleton responded that, while this was a good point, that discussion had been outside the scope of the committee’s charge. Past President Fumerton commented that the issue raised by Professor Menninger was separate from the issue of how lecturers, who will no doubt be part of the university community for a long time to come, should be treated. Vice President Bohannan concurred and added that she has heard concerns expressed that in some colleges deans were hiring more lecturers as “cheap labor,” rather than hiring more tenure-track faculty. Addressing the equity issues facing lecturers may curtail this alleged practice.

Professor Abboud moved and Professor Gillan seconded that the Senate thank the Lecturers Committee for their significant work, that the Senate accept the committee’s report, and that the committee be maintained for one additional year to assist in addressing the recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. From the Floor –

Professor Campo moved that the Senate approve the following resolution in honor of President Thomas:
WHEREAS the University of Iowa Faculty are members of a University Community that requires dedicated leadership; and
WHEREAS President Alexandra Thomas has served effectively and with the ultimate dedication in her roles as Senate Vice President and President, working tirelessly on behalf of the Senate and the entire University community; and
WHEREAS President Thomas has worked skillfully both with members of the administration and with faculty colleagues in every college to build the University of Iowa faculty’s engagement with our fellow citizens in the State of Iowa and throughout the world through their research, teaching, service, and outreach;
WHEREAS President Thomas has continued to nurture relationships between the Regents and the University of Iowa faculty, thereby fortifying our mutually respectful communication;
WHEREAS President Thomas has advocated carefully, thoughtfully, and masterfully for the values of all faculty as essential to the university’s mission and operations; and
WHEREAS President Thomas has dedicated constant energy and a very modest attitude in her contributions to strengthening shared governance;
BE IT RESOLVED that We the Senate express our most profound gratitude to President Thomas for her dedicated leadership and service to us all.

Professor Mallik seconded that the resolution be approved. The resolution was unanimously approved via applause.

V. Announcements

• Regents Awards for Faculty Excellence (Alexandra Thomas)

President Thomas announced the winners of the 2015 Regents Awards for Faculty Excellence: Gail Bishop (Microbiology), John Engelhardt (Anatomy & Cell Biology), David
Gompper (Music), Raymond Mentzer (Religious Studies), Christopher Merrill (International Writing Program), and Carol Scott-Conner (Surgery).

- Michael J. Brody Awards for Faculty Excellence in Service to the University and the State of Iowa (Alexandra Thomas)
  President Thomas announced the winners of the 2015 Michael J. Brody Awards for Faculty Excellence in Service to the University and the State of Iowa: Charles Connerly (Urban & Regional Planning) and Judy Polumbaum (Journalism & Mass Communication).

- Concluding Remarks of the 2014-2015 Faculty Senate President
  President Thomas began her remarks by thanking the faculty for the great trust they had placed in her. She had never imagined that she would have the enormous privilege of serving in the role of Faculty Senate President. She was filled with many heartfelt sentiments, but none resonating more than an enormous sense of the potential, creativity and true good will of our faculty. She then acknowledged a number of individuals, indicating that although her remarks would be brief, her feelings were profound and sincere. She expressed gratitude to Faculty Senate Administrative Services Coordinator Laura Zaper for her efforts in support of the officers. She praised the service contributions of the outgoing councilors and senators and hoped to be able to call on them again for future projects.

  Turning to the other members of her officer team and what they had taught her, she commented that Secretary Tom Vaughn had shown the officers the value of inquiry and had often asked difficult questions in an amazingly polite way. President Thomas has known Past President Richard Fumerton for many years and has learned a great deal from him. She expressed gratitude for his counsel and his willingness to return to the role of past president twice after leaving the Senate. President Thomas noted that so many councilors and senators had provided her with valued guidance and she appreciated the opportunity to travel all across campus and meet with faculty from each college. They have individually and collectively provided her with insight that has allowed her to represent faculty broadly. President Thomas commented that working with Vice President Christina Bohannan has been a true collaboration. Their shared decisions were governed by a mutual deep-seated commitment to the missions of our university. President Thomas stated that finally and most of all she must thank her family, who put up with a seemingly endless stream of crises, along with other Senate needs, that often took her away from them.

  President Thomas stressed that these are exciting times for the university, poised for new and visionary leadership. She stated that we can take our university to a place among the very best in the land. She encouraged the faculty to think about our collective future; how can we together ensure that our very best work and our very best days are ahead of us? She hoped that we would move forward and consider the kind of university we want to be in the twenty-first century. How do we at the University of Iowa want to fit into the complex, excellent, contemporary public higher education scene? President Thomas hoped that we would find common ground with each other and with other vital stakeholders on important issues as we navigate through this promising era. We have far more in common which unites us than which divides us. From the vantage point with which the faculty have entrusted her and from
conversations that she has had this year, she can clearly see that our collective potentials balance. Together we can fulfill this promise. Again, she expressed her thanks to the Senate for the true privilege of serving as Faculty Senate President.

VI. Adjournment – Professor Campo moved and Professor Abboud seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously. President Thomas adjourned the meeting at 4:45 pm.

FACULTY SENATE
2015-2016 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
Tuesday, April 28, 2015
4:45 – 5:15 pm
Senate Chamber, Old Capitol

MINUTES

I. Call to Order – President Bohannan called the meeting to order at 4:45 pm.

II. Election of Faculty Senate Officers (Victoria Sharp and David Cunning, Elections Committee)

President Bohannan directed the new and continuing senators to move into the center seating area of the Senate Chamber. Although outgoing senators were free to leave, they were invited to remain, if they wished, but to be seated in the side areas.

Professor Sharp indicated that the candidates for Faculty Senate Vice President were Edward Gillan, Chemistry, and Thomas Vaughn, Health Management and Policy. The candidates for Faculty Senate Secretary were Scott Seibert, Management and Organizations, and Peter Snyder, Internal Medicine.

Paper ballots were distributed, collected, and counted.

III. Opening Remarks of the 2015-2016 Faculty Senate President Christina Bohannan

President Bohannan began her remarks by stating that it was a great honor to serve as Faculty Senate President. She thanked all the senators who served during the past year and welcomed the newly-elected senators. She commented that she has always been impressed by the passion and wisdom that senators bring to the issues that come before them, and she believed that the university is made stronger by the work that the Senate does. President Bohannan thanked her fellow officers for making her year as vice president such a rewarding experience. The officer team spends a great deal of time together; in fact, during her presidency year, Past President Thomas attended approximately 290 meetings related to Senate business. This does not include hours of hallway conversations, phone calls, and emails.
President Bohannan stated that the 2014-15 officers had been a great team to work with. Past President Thomas has been a force for positive change at the university; she is kind and outgoing, and her smart and optimistic leadership is exactly what the university needed this year. During her tenure the officers have reached out across campus and beyond, to Regents, legislators, community leaders and others around the state. President Bohannan stated that she knew of no other person who has taken greater pride in representing UI faculty and their work than Past President Thomas. And in her “day job” she saves lives by treating women with breast cancer! She is an accomplished doctor and faculty member and we have been very fortunate to have her lead the Faculty Senate this year. President Bohannan added that she was personally very grateful that Past President Thomas has become her friend.

Former Secretary Tom Vaughn is a very endearing person who has gone above and beyond his duties as secretary, attending every meeting and event that he can. He is engaged, asking fundamental questions about policy issues. He is funny and sincere and has done a great job as Faculty Senate Secretary. Former Past President Richard Fumerton is one of President Bohannan’s favorite people. He has been indispensable to the Senate in recent years, stepping in twice as past president since he finished his original three years as an officer. He is the person who persuaded President Bohannan to run for Faculty Senate Secretary several years ago. She added that whenever she is confronted with a difficult issue, he is the first person she wants to talk to. He challenges everyone to think harder and to do better. President Bohannan also recognized Faculty Senate Administrative Services Coordinator Laura Zaper for her work.

President Bohannan commented that during this past year we certainly lived in interesting times - everything from the efficiency study, to President Mason’s retirement, to performance-based funding. Next year promises to be even more transformative. As Past President Thomas mentioned, it is truly an exciting time to be at the University of Iowa. Our academic programs are strong, with our rankings reflecting that. We are about to grow our student enrollment. We have many new spectacular buildings that will soon be complete. This kind of growth brings an infusion of new energy to campus. There will, however, be challenges ahead. During the coming Senate year, we will see three university presidents. During this transition, the leadership of the faculty will be of the utmost importance. We are grateful to Vice President for Medical Affairs Jean Robillard for stepping in as interim president and look forward to working closely with him. We also look forward to working with the search committee to find a president worthy of this great university. We will look for a strong and principled leader who can inspire faculty, staff, and students to achieve excellence.

In order to meet these future challenges, we must be steadfast in our core values, but also open to positive change. We must continue to value shared governance while making way for a new president who can give us the leadership we need and deserve. We must continue to fight for the importance of tenure at a top research university while according fair treatment to lecturers and others who do the important work of teaching our students. We must defend our commitment to academic and artistic freedom on a university campus while also protecting diversity and racial inclusion. These goals are not mutually exclusive, but reinforce each other. We must advocate for the arts and humanities, as well as the sciences, medicine, and engineering, because without any one of these parts we cannot be whole. These are the truths
that we as faculty hold to be self-evident. They are lofty values, but we should demand nothing less from our administrators or from ourselves. It is inspiring to know that such talented and thoughtful people as the assembled senators have chosen to serve on the Faculty Senate this year. Professor Bohannan looks forward to working with each and every one of them for the benefit of our cherished institution.

President Bohannan presented a gift to former Past President Fumerton. Past President Thomas presented a gift to former Secretary Vaughn.

IV. From the Floor – There were no issues from the floor.

V. Announcements
- Officer Election Results – Professor Sharp announced that the new Faculty Senate Secretary is Peter Snyder and the new Faculty Senate Vice President is Thomas Vaughn. All candidates were given a round of applause.
- 2015-2016 Meeting Schedule – President Bohannan reminded senators that the meeting schedule for 2015-2016 could be found in their meeting packets.

VI. Adjournment – Professor Tachau moved and Professor Campo seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously. President Bohannan adjourned the meeting at 5:05 pm.