

Minutes*

Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Wednesday, September 28, 2005
2:30 – 4:30
238A Morrill Hall

Present: Richard McCormick (chair), William Bart, Vernon Cardwell, LeAnn Dean, (George Green for) Gail Dubrow, Claudia Neuhauser, Christopher Pappas, Mary Ellen Shaw, Donna Spannaus-Martin, Craig Swan, Douglas Wangenstein

Absent: Shawn Curley, James Leger, Paul Siliciano, Emily Ronning, Joel Weinsheimer

Guests: John Ziegenhagen (Office of the Executive Associate Vice President); Tina Falkner (Office of the Registrar)

[In these minutes: (1) Twin Cities campus accreditation; (2) notation of teaching awards; (3) changes to Morse-Alumni and Graduate/Professional teaching award rules; (4) strategic positioning task forces; (5) instructor control over technology in the classroom]

1. Twin Cities Campus Accreditation

Professor McCormick convened the meeting at 2:30 and welcomed Mr. Ziegenhagen to the meeting to discuss the Twin Cities campus accreditation visit.

Mr. Ziegenhagen distributed copies of the bound volume of information that will be provided to the accreditation team from the Higher Learning Commissions (formerly the North Central Association) and a list of the team members. He explained the process of accreditation and said that the leadership of committees of the Senate would be involved in meetings with the team. One area he said it would be particularly helpful for this Committee to be involved in is assessment of student learning and the practices the University has in place.

The coordinate campuses are on their own accreditation schedules and not part of this one.

2. Notation of Teaching Awards

Vice Provost Swan recalled that the Committee had discussed last year the notation of faculty who had won teaching awards; one question raised was WHAT teaching awards should qualify for notation in the class schedule. A small group from the Committee developed criteria.

The group decided not to include notation of awards that are not directly connected to students (e.g., outstanding achievement award, research awards, and so on). The awards must also have some legitimacy and consistency, not just something dreamt up by somebody over a beer. Dr. Swan said he would to the Committee, as needed, bring requests to add to the list of awards recognized.

* These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represents the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.

The Committee agreed that departmental awards should not be included (there is too much risk of buddy systems; college awards will given be more dispassionately). The following language was approved and will be provided to the Senate for information:

Twin Cities: Identification of Award Winning Teachers for Inclusion on the Class Schedule and Course Guide

Recognition of teaching awards should include

- All-University or all-campus awards for excellence in teaching
- College awards for excellence in teaching
- Disciplinary awards for excellence in teaching, e.g. national recognition by professional society.

Other awards that recognize outstanding contributions to the education of students are eligible to be considered for inclusion. For awards to be considered for inclusion, individuals should send a brief description of the award to the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education. This material will be vetted with an appropriate group of faculty for review.

To be considered, materials must include information about the following

- The history of the award (i.e., how long has the award been in existence)
- A listing of past University of Minnesota recipients
- An indication of how frequently the award is granted and how individuals are recognized
- A description of the process that solicits nominations
- A description of the material that is reviewed
- A description of what body reviews nominations/submissions

3. Changes to the Morse-Alumni and Graduate-Professional Award Rules

The Committee reviewed technical changes to the rules governing how nominations for the Morse-Alumni and Graduate-Professional awards for contributions to education will be submitted. There was continued discussion about which offices would be responsible for which data concerning teaching evaluation results. It was agreed that for this year, college averages would be used, and the data will not be requested of nominators but will be provided to the nominating committee when it evaluates candidates. (But it was agreed that the nomination form would include the blanks for the data, shaded so that nominators would know they do not have to fill in that part of the form.) It was also agreed the Committee would have a discussion with Dr. Dohm of the Office of Measurement Services about the kinds of data that can be produced.

The revised forms will be presented to the Senate for information.

4. Strategic Positioning Task Forces

Professor McCormick reminded Committee members they wished to review the academic strategic positioning task force charges, especially the ones that deal with students. In particular, the Committee will wish to see what elements it believes might be missing from the charges. Although

the Faculty Consultative Committee has a representative on the coordinating committees, it is assumed that the task forces themselves will be receptive to comments from, inter alia, Senate committees.

Dr. Swan noted that the task forces will be asked to have a draft report by December 10; there will be a month to comment on the report. That presumably will be another time when the Committee could make its views known.

5. Statement on Technology in Classrooms

The Committee agreed, inasmuch as the question had recently been raised again, that it would be useful to have a statement on record with the Senate about the authority of instructors to regulate the technology they would permit in their classrooms (e.g., cell phones, CD players, etc.). The Committee will formulate a statement and submit it to the Senate.

Professor McCormick adjourned the meeting at 4:25.

-- Gary Engstrand

University of Minnesota