

Minutes*

Faculty Consultative Committee
Thursday, April 4, 2002
3:00 - 3:30
238A Morrill Hall

Present: Joseph Massey (chair), Wilbert Ahern, Susan Brorson, Arthur Erdman, Daniel Feeney, Marti Hope Gonzales, Candace Kruttschnitt, Paula Rabinowitz, Jeff Ratliff-Crain, Charles Speaks

Absent: Muriel Bebeau, Les Drewes, Richard Goldstein, Marc Jenkins, Leonard Kuhi, Judith Martin, Scott McConnell

Guests: none

Other: none

[In these minutes: (1) bookstore displays; (2) stipends for committee chairs; (3) Senate vice-chair nomination; (4) support services accountability; (5) order of meetings]

1. Bookstore Displays

Professor Massey convened the meeting immediately following the Senate Consultative Committee meeting and turned to Professor Rabinowitz for a brief comment.

Professor Rabinowitz reported that the new bookstore intends to have displays highlighting books from the University of Minnesota Press and books published by University of Minnesota faculty (irrespective of where published). The bookstores have no way to be informed systematically about books published by Minnesota faculty; can a mechanism be set up so the bookstores will automatically know about faculty-written books in order that they can be displayed?

It was agreed that Vice President Maziar would be asked if there is some mechanism that could be established.

2. Compensation for Committee Chairs

The Committee next turned to a 1993 report recommending that chairs of certain Senate committees (the FCC chair and those individuals who chair a Senate committee and also serve ex officio on this Committee). The recommendation at the time was that the FCC/SCC chair receive a 25%-released-time appointment and that the chairs of the Senate committees who serve ex officio on FCC/SCC receive a stipend of \$5000. (Since those recommendations were made and implemented, the practice has evolved so that the FCC vice-chair and Senate Research Committee chair also receive a stipend of \$3000.) [Note: the stipends to chairs may be used in any way permissible under University rules: pay a

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summer salary for those on less-than-12-month appointments, professional travel, hiring a graduate assistant, purchase equipment, etc.]

Discussion touched on several points.

-- The original intent of the stipend to committee chairs was to permit them to buy a one-course release for the year, inasmuch as they were expected to attend approximately 5-6 meetings per month during the academic year as well as take on the organizational responsibilities of chairing committees. The stipends, which have not changed in 10 years, are now substantially less than what is needed in any college to pay for a one-course release from teaching.

-- It would not be appropriate to set committee chair stipend as a percentage of salary; the salaries vary too widely and the stipend should be the same for all, inasmuch as the work required is presumably approximately the same for all committees. [Note: the stipend for the chair of the Senate Research Committee is lower than the other stipends because the Senate Research Committee has typically only met once per month rather than twice per month.]

-- Since 10 years have passed since the stipends were set, they should be adjusted for the cost of inflation.

-- Has there been an issue in identifying chairs that led the stipend to be offered? Are there reasons to commit to governance service other than money? Professor Speaks commented that he would have accepted reappointment as chair of the Finance and Planning Committee but that it was very helpful, to relieve pressure on his faculty responsibilities, to be able to use the money to hire a graduate assistant. Other Committee members concurred that the funding is appropriate recompense for the time that these chairs are required to put in.

-- The Committee also agreed that the 25%-released-time appointment for the FCC chair is too low.

The Committee agreed that Professor Feeney would convene a small group to take a considered look at the stipends and the appointment term for the FCC chair, with the understanding that any increases recommended could not come out of the existing Senate budget.

3. Nomination of Senate Vice Chair

The Committee agreed unanimously to nominate Professor Gonzales to serve as Senate vice chair for 2002-03.

4. Accountability of Support Services

Professor Massey next called on Professor Feeney for a comment. Professor Feeney recalled that there has been appointed an ad hoc committee to deal with issues concerning the research secrecy policy and restrictions on publication; the group is composed of three members of FCC and three members of the Senate Research Committee. He proposes to appoint another ad hoc group to deal with support services: to whom do they report, is there any faculty role in decision-making, if not why not, and to look generally at their accountability.

The key word is accountability, Professor Feeney said; they exist to support the academic mission. In some areas, however, support services seem to have a stranglehold on the University; if academic units made some of the mistakes that support service units have made, people would have been fired or sued. Has anyone ever conducted a consumer satisfaction survey about support services? Any cost overruns in the support services come from the academic budgets, he noted.

The Committee concurred with Professor Feeney's proposal to appoint such a group. It was agreed that the membership would consist of two members from this Committee, two members from the Committee on Finance and Planning, two members from the Subcommittee on Twin Cities Facilities and Support Services, and one member from a coordinate campus.

5. Order of Meetings

The Committee agreed to request of the Student Senate Consultative Committee that in the future, the meetings of the SENATE Consultative Committee precede the meetings of the Faculty Consultative Committee and the Student Senate Consultative Committee.

Professor Massey adjourned the meeting at 3:50.

-- Gary Engstrand

University of Minnesota