

Minutes\*

**Faculty Consultative Committee**  
**Thursday, December 17, 2009**  
**1:00 – 3:00**  
**238A Morrill Hall**

Present: Marti Hope Gonzales (chair), Melissa Anderson, Nancy Carpenter, Carol Chomsky, Chris Cramer, Shawn Curley, Janet Fitzakerley, Kathryn Hanna, Caroline Hayes, Emily Hoover, Brian Isetts, Jan McCulloch, Martin Sampson, Kate VandenBosch, Cathrine Wambach, Becky Yust

Absent: Walt Jacobs, Jeff Kahn, Russell Luepker, Michael Oakes

Guests: Provost E. Thomas Sullivan; President Robert Bruininks

Other: none

[In these minutes: (1) discussion with Provost Sullivan; (2) committee business; (3) discussion with President Bruininks]

**1. Discussion with Provost Sullivan**

Professor Gonzales convened the meeting at 1:05 and welcomed Provost Sullivan.

Provost Sullivan touched on several items.

-- On the conflict-of-interest (COI) policy, he noted that the discussions have been helpful on both substance and process. A full review is under way on both. In this case, the discussion of the administrative policy (which implements a Regents policy) got ahead of changes in the Regents policy, so they plan to take up Regents policy changes first and then return to the administrative policy. In addition, he commented that a parallel practice might helpful to consider in informing the COI policy: Sections 7.11 and 7.12 of the tenure code provide a broad general statement that applies to all units (7.11) and a requirement (7.12) that each unit draft its own statement implementing Section 7.11 in line with its culture and discipline. He suggested it may be that there could be a broad Regents policy, a broad administrative policy (with more details than the Regents policy), and then college and campus policies with more detail, each of which would require approval by central administration and which would need to be consistent with the Regents and administrative policies. Comments are still welcome on these suggestions, to be sent to him, Vice President Kathryn Brown, or Ms. Zentner. Provost Sullivan also said that given that there are pending COI decisions required in the Academic Health Center, it may be necessary to adopt an interim policy for it in order not to rush the development of permanent policies for the University as a whole. In terms of central approval, the process is under discussion. He said he would want a broad-based group involved in reviewing the collegiate COI policies and advising him on the proposals, one that would include coordinate campus representation in order to ensure that their issues are understood fully. Almost everyone is familiar with promotion and tenure; faculty and administrators

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have less experience with COI and different cultures and practices, so he would want a balanced approach to review of COI policies.

Professor Yust cautioned that care needs to be given to interdisciplinary faculty. Just as with tenure, so also with COI, cross-disciplinary faculty members who are tenured in one unit will face potential problems with different COI policies.

Professor Chomsky suggested it would help colleges and campuses if there were a template available or if suggestions or assistance could be provided for drafting their individual policies. Few units have experience with writing a COI policy. With respect to disclosure, she also reported that she has heard from colleagues about instances when even revealing a relationship can be a problem, but this may be unique to the Law School because it relates to legal representation.

Professor McCulloch agreed the approach should be flexible but wondered if it would be possible that something would be a COI in one college and not in another. Provost Sullivan said that if a college wants something different at the policy level, it will have to make a "compelling case," but that it could be presented. The bar should be high, however, for significant changes. (One hears, for example, that distribution of pens with a company name on it may affect prescriptions in a health-care setting; that is a factual matter that may be context-specific and there may be no such effect in other units.)

-- On the clinical integration of University of Minnesota Physicians and Fairview Health Services, the Provost and the Committee had an off-the-record discussion.

-- On the general budget discussions, the Provost said that there cannot be only cuts to the budget, but there must also be investments in the colleges and units. The University will have to make cuts, but it must also make investments, he emphasized. There must be an equal evaluation of appropriate cuts and investments, or the University will wallow in mediocrity.

-- The graduate-education work groups are working hard and their reports are due in January. Once released, there will be a 30-day comment period; after that, the reports will be returned to the work groups for review and the final reports due approximately March 1.

-- He has been working on a retrospective view of the first five years of strategic positioning. There has been a lot of work on it, both conceptually and in implementation, and it is time to take stock of what has been done and what the University is now facing. (A handout was provided to the Committee.) There has been significant academic progress and investment in the institution, colleges, and departments in the last five years and the aspirations, goal-setting, and momentum cannot be lost. It may be that the slope of the curve on investments and progress will need to be adjusted, but the process must continue in order to advance quality and the University's reputation.

Professor Gonzales thanked Provost Sullivan for joining the meeting.

## **2. Committee Business**

Professor Gonzales reported on or noted several items.

-- The Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee is deliberating about a statement on the recent controversy surrounding language that was part of the discussion leading up to a teacher-education program proposal to the Bush Foundation from the College of Education and Human Development. Any statement will come to this Committee for information and possibly endorsement.

-- Vice Provost Carney suggested a modest amendment to the Faculty Compensation Policy which was endorsed by the Committee on Faculty Affairs. Committee members reviewed and approved it unanimously; it will be placed on the docket of the next meeting of the Faculty Senate for action.

-- The President's office has proposed making the "protocol" governing participation of Senate committees in searches for central administrators into an administrative procedure and incorporating it as part of search procedures. The Committee agreed unanimously to this proposal.

Committee members had a brief discussion of the costs of work at the University and the errors in billing that frequently occur.

Professor Sampson provided a short report on the state budget and legislative prospects.

The Committee agreed on the recommendations it wished to make to the Faculty Committee on Committees for the chairs of the committees who serve as ex officio members of this Committee. Professor Gonzales agreed to contact individuals to find out their interest in serving before forwarding any recommendations.

The Committee wished to see the ballot for chair of the Committee for 2010-11 before the next meeting, the date on which the election will be held.

### **3. Discussion with President Bruininks**

Professor Gonzales welcomed the President to the meeting. The Committee and the President held an hour-long discussion that covered several issues: the budget, the Foundation website, light-rail transit, energy costs, advice from University Relations to units on how to address questions about institutional autonomy, graduate-student satisfaction, and Northrop Auditorium.

Professor Gonzales thanked the President for joining the meeting at adjourned it at 3:20.

-- Gary Engstrand