

Minutes*

Faculty Consultative Committee
Thursday, January 12, 2006
1:15 – 3:00
238A Morrill Hall

Present: Jean Bauer (chair), Gary Balas, Barbara Elliott, Dan Feeney, Megan Gunnar, Mary Jo Kane, Morris Kleiner, Kathleen Krichbaum, Scott Lanyon, Marvin Marshak, Judith Martin, Richard McCormick, Fred Morrison, Steven Ruggles

Absent: Martin Sampson, John Sullivan, Jennifer Windsor

Guests: Provost E. Thomas Sullivan

[In these minutes: (1) discussion of task force reports; (2) discussion with Provost Sullivan]

1. Task Force Reports

Professor Bauer convened the meeting at 1:05 pm, and called for a discussion about the Academic Task Forces issues to present to Provost Sullivan. A discussion ensued with committee members bringing up various matters. The committee expressed concerns about resources being available for the many and varied task force recommendations. Professor Balas raised concerns about many of the recommendations calling for additional administrators. Several committee members pointed out that many of the initiatives noted in the recommendations would require significant cultural changes, which are not addressed in the reports. Professor Kane suggested that the initial changes to the consolidation of colleges should be an open and transparent process as an exemplar for how the other changes will proceed. Professor McCormick said that, with regard to resources, some of the initiatives may be in a position to attract potential donors, thereby creating necessary resources. He also stressed that advising should be centrally supported as it serves the common good (although the management and delivery of advising services should remain decentralized). Professor Gunnar added that the necessary resources should be targeted to groups being forced to change. The committee also stressed the need to address the growth of P&A, and Professor Kane reiterated that the University cannot send the message that faculty can become P&A if not measuring up academically and in research. It puts the University in a difficult position and is an inherent contradiction. Professor Kleiner also said the issue of faculty titles needs to be addressed. Professor Martin said that space issues also need to be addressed with regard to resources. Professor Bauer went on to say that there are inconsistencies in naming different units in the task force reports and these should be consistent. She also pointed out that recommendations in some of the task force initiatives affect other recommendations, but neither set of recommendations reflected these potential impacts. Professor Balas also stated that there needed to be some way to evaluate and assess progress toward the goals.

2. Discussion with Provost Sullivan

Professor Bauer welcomed Provost Sullivan to the meeting. A discussion followed regarding the issues raised by the committee.

* 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.

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Professor Bauer adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

-- Mary Jo Pehl

University of Minnesota