Minutes of the CSBS Faculty Senate Meeting on 2/15/10

Present: Tim Strauss (Chair, Geography), Annette Lynch (DTGFS), Brian Roberts (History), Taifa Yu (Political Science), Otto MacLin (Psychology), Cindy Juby (Social Work), Cyndi Dunn (Soc-Anth-Crim), Phil Mauceri (Dean).

Attending as guests: CSBS Senators on the University Faculty Senate, Julie Lowell, Greg Bruess, and Katherine Van Wormer.

I. Approval of the minutes

Minutes from the February 1st meeting were approved with no changes.

II. Teaching and Service Awards Committee

Senator MacLin will serve as the CSBS representative on the university Teaching and Service Awards Committee.

III. University Faculty Senate Budget Committee

The Committee on Committees has recently recommended that the Faculty Senate Budget Committee be disbanded or merged into the Faculty Senate Strategic Planning Committee. The CSBS Senate opposes both of these ideas on the grounds that in the current fiscal climate, it is essential to have a strong and active budget committee to provide faculty input into the budgetary decision-making process.

Senator Lynch provided the CSBS Senate with a draft proposal to create a new Faculty Senate Budget Committee. There was some discussion and amendment of this proposal and the best way to bring it forward to the University Faculty Senate.

The CSBS Senate voted to approve the following motion to be brought to the University Faculty Senate:

“Whereas, the Faculty Senate Budget Committee has not met for many years and it has been proposed that its functions be merged with those of the Faculty Senate Strategic Planning Committee, and

Whereas we feel that it is essential to have a strong and active faculty budget committee in the current fiscal environment,

The Faculty Senate of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences proposes to the UNI Faculty Senate that:

(1) A new, standing UNI Faculty Budget committee be created by the UNI Faculty Senate to review all pro-forma, operating and continuing budgets including quarterly income statements and balance sheets of all segments of the university.
The budget committee will consist of an elected representative from each UNI college with staggered terms of three years.

This budget committee will review the budgets and make recommendations to the UNI Faculty Senate no later than March 15th of each academic year on the transparency, sustainability and adequacy of the UNI budgets and the current budget process.

This report together with any recommendations approved by the University Faculty Senate will be forwarded to the UNI provost, president, and cabinet.

The UNI president will be requested to provide the University Faculty Senate with a response to the report and recommendations no later than the end of UNI’s fiscal year to allow the budget committee the opportunity to incorporate suggestions and responses for those UNI components in the next academic year’s deliberations.”

Chair Strauss will forward this document to Dena Snowden, Secretary of the University Faculty Senate for docketing as an agenda item for the University Faculty Senate.

It was also noted that it is important that there be communication between the CSBS representative on such a budget committee and the CSBS Faculty Senate. If this motion is successful, the CSBS Senate will plan to meet annually during the spring semester with the CSBS representative to the budget committee.

IV. Liberal Arts Core issues

The proposal to add Dynamics of Human Development to Category 5 of the Liberal Arts Core will be discussed by the University Faculty Senate on Monday, February 22. CSBS faculty are encouraged to attend this meeting to speak against the proposal.

There was also some discussion of the University Strategic Planning Committee and the relatively low level of faculty representation on that committee. Dean Mauceri urged faculty to show up and provide their input on the draft of the strategic plan at the town hall meetings scheduled for this week. Low levels of faculty attendance at such events sends a message that faculty are indifferent to these issues. The strategic plan is still very much in the draft stage and can be altered based on input received from interested faculty or other stakeholders.

V. Meeting with CNS and CHFA Faculty leadership

On February 10, Chair Strauss attended a meeting with the leadership of the CNS and CHFA Faculty Senates and the Graduate Council, together with Jesse Swan, Chair of the Faculty, to discuss faculty response to the merger of CNS and CHFA. One of the issues discussed was
faculty governance and whether or how the current faculty governance structures should be changed in response to this administrative reorganization.

Members of the CHFA Faculty Senate have drafted a letter to Provost Gibson expressing concerns about the need for transparency and faculty input into the transition team for the merger of the colleges. They have invited the support or endorsement of the CSBS Faculty Senate.

There was some discussion of whether the CSBS Senate wished to endorse the letter by adding our names as signatories or just to indicate our general support. The CSBS Senate voted in favor of the following statement:

“The CSBS Faculty Senate supports the concerns expressed by the CHFA Faculty Senate regarding the importance of transparency and faculty input into the transition process for merging the College of Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. We urge that the recommendations expressed in this letter be given full consideration.”

The CHFA Senate has also prepared the following motion to be forwarded to the University Faculty Senate:

“The UNI University Faculty Senate develop policies and procedures for any future mergers of academic units and/or changes in the structure of academic units that are consistent with AAUP standards and that insure that UNI adhere to principles of shared governance.

Specifically, the Senate should create a task force (committee) to review recent UNI actions, develop clear policy and procedures statements, and bring these to the Senate for consideration before the end of the Spring 2010 semester. The task force should be faculty driven but should include representatives from the administration and the student body.”

The CSBS Faculty Senate voted to endorse this motion.

Chair Strauss will convey our senate’s actions on the letter and motion to the Chair of the CHFA Faculty Senate.

There was some additional discussion of a motion on faculty workload that Jerry Smith has brought before the University Faculty Senate. The CSBS Senate opposes this proposal.

VI. Elections for University Committees

Most of the current representatives have agreed to serve again if needed. Our college needs to find a candidate willing to serve as the CSBS representative to the Liberal Arts Core Committee.
VII. Comments from the dean

The college will carry out an internal search for Associate Dean. The search committee will consist of Bob Martin, Carolyn Hildebrandt, Annette Lynch, and Phil Mauceri.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cyndi Dunn