Minutes of the CSBS Senate Meeting on 11/7/11

Present: Otto MacLin (Chair, Psychology), Tim Strauss (Geography), Carol Weisenberger (History), Taifa Yu (Political Science), Cyndi Dunn (SAC), Elaine Eshbaugh (SAHS), Jim McCullagh (Social Work), Brenda Bass (Associate Dean)

I. Approval of the minutes from 10/17/11

The minutes from 10/17/11 were approved with no changes.

II. Addendum: Change to award deadlines

Between the October and November meetings, the senate voted via email to change the deadline for nominations for the Regents Award to reach the senate. The deadline was changed from “the Friday prior to the third Monday in October” to “December 1, except in years when an earlier deadline is set by the Awards Committee.” This change has been made on the CSBS website.

III. Discussion of elections for university committees

The senate reviewed the election process for CSBS seats on university committees. The chair of the college senate will consult with the chair of the Committee on Committees to receive a list of all CSBS seats which are up for election in spring 2012. The CSBS Faculty Senate is then responsible for soliciting candidates to run and administering the elections.

IV. Current status of Faculty Budget Committee

Scott Peters, who is one of the CSBS representatives to the University Faculty Senate, has contacted members of the CSBS Faculty Senate to inform us that the University Faculty Senate is considering abolishing two faculty committees: the University Faculty Senate Budget Committee and the Faculty Strategic Plan Committee. He requested our input.

During the spring of 2010 there was previous discussion of possibly abolishing or merging these two committees. At that time, the CSBS Senate felt that it was important for the faculty to be informed of and have input into the budget process. Accordingly, the CSBS Senate brought a motion to the University Faculty Senate requesting that the existing Faculty Budget Committee be revitalized and given a new charge, rather than being abolished. This motion was tabled twice by the University Faculty Senate and was never voted on.

Senator Yu, who serves on the Faculty Budget Committee, stated that the committee had met and drafted a new charge which was sent to the University Senate for approval. That new charge has also never been approved or acted upon by the University Senate.

The CSBS Senate remains convinced that faculty input into the budget process is vitally important and opposes abolishing this committee. It would be advisable for the CSBS Senate to meet with Senator Peters to discuss this issue if schedules permit.
V. Other business

There was some discussion of the idea that the CSBS Senate should take a more proactive role in providing input into policy decisions on the part of the administration. One example raised was the development of a system of post-tenure review. Associate Dean Bass confirmed that the Board of Regents will require UNI to develop some type of formal system of post-tenure review. A labor-management committee is being convened between representatives of United Faculty and representatives of the administration to develop such a system. Dr. Bass is of the opinion that this body would be open to faculty input. There was some discussion of whether it would be possible for the CSBS Senate to schedule a meeting with representatives from United Faculty to discuss the issue.

VI. Comments from the Dean

Senator McCullagh asked Associate Dean Bass to convey the following question for Dean Mauceri to address at the next senate meeting: Given that the dean is now requiring all faculty to have student evaluations of teaching every semester, does the dean actually review the evaluations for individual faculty members and how are those data being used?

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cyndi Dunn