Minutes of the CSBS Senate Meeting on 9/20/10

Present: Tim Strauss (Chair, Geography), Carol Weisenberger (History), Taifa Yu (Political Science), Otto MacLin (Psychology), Cyndi Dunn (SAC), Gowri Betrabet-Gulwadi (SAHS), Jim McCullagh (Social Work), Philip Mauceri (Dean)

I. Approval of the minutes from 4/19/10

Minutes of the April 19, 2010 meeting were approved with the substitution of “ensure” for “insure.”

II. Election of the CSBS Senate Vice Chair and Secretary

Senator Yu was elected as vice chair of the senate. Senator Dunn was elected as secretary.

III. State of the College Address

The senate invited the dean to give the State of the College address on Monday, October 4 at 3:15 p.m. in Seerley 115.

It was agreed that the CSBS Faculty Senate will regularly meet at 3:15 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month.

IV. CSBS Committees

Chair Strauss circulated the most current list of CSBS committees. Updates and corrections should be forwarded to Chair Strauss and Karla Whitney in the dean’s office. It was suggested that Chair Strauss contact the chair of each committee to ask them to clarify 1) the existing charge or function of the committee, 2) how members are selected (e.g., appointed by dean, chosen by the senate, elected by departments), and 3) the terms of office.

V. Update on the CSBS Senate Motion on the UNI Faculty Senate Budget Committee

Last spring, the CSBS Faculty Senate forwarded to the UNI Faculty Senate a motion calling for the creation or reconstitution of an active UNI Faculty Senate Budget Committee. Senator Dunn provided an update on the status of that motion.

The motion on the budget committee was discussed at the UNI Faculty Senate meeting on April 12, 2010 and was eventually tabled until the fall. The motion was briefly discussed again at the UNI Faculty Senate meeting on August 23, 2010. Senator Dunn attended that meeting and spoke in favor of the motion. The UNI Faculty Senate has asked the Committee on Committees for a review and overhaul of the entire committee structure and it was determined that the revitalization of the UNI Faculty Senate Budget Committee could best be accomplished as part of that larger project.
VI. CSBS Faculty Senate Priorities

Chair Strauss invited senators to provide suggestions on issues that the senate should address during this academic year, noting that much of the spring semester will necessarily be devoted to curriculum review.

A. Teaching and Service Awards

One of the functions of the CSBS Senate is to nominate faculty for various university awards. Senator MacLin reported on his experiences last spring serving as the CSBS senate representative on the University Teaching and Service Award Committee. Members of the committee were contacted and asked to send in their rankings of the candidates, but the committee never met and the final decision was not announced to the committee members. It was suggested that this is potentially problematic and that it would be preferable in the future for the awards committee to meet face-to-face to discuss and vote on the candidates.

There are also CSBS College awards for Outstanding Service and Outstanding Teaching. Faculty whom the CSBS Senate nominate for the university-level awards are normally automatically awarded the college-level award. It was suggested that perhaps this process should be reversed with faculty first nominated for college-level awards and then the winners being forwarded as nominees for the university-level awards.

Dean Maucerri mentioned that some faculty have suggested to him the creation of a research award that would be designated specifically for untenured faculty much as we currently have the University Book and Supply Teaching Award for untenured faculty.

B. Mandated Student Evaluations of Teaching

There was considerable discussion of the proposal to require all faculty members to have student evaluations of teaching conducted in all classes every semester. Dean Mauceri stated that this decision was made by the Council of Deans. This is already standard practice in the College of Education and the College of Business Administration and he and Dean Haack decided to bring their practices in line with those of the other two colleges. Dean Mauceri suggested that one way to provide greater context for the quantitative data would be to have each faculty member write an analysis of his or her ratings, reasons for possible increase or decreases etc. He also stated that from his perspective, it is the overall trends that are of the greatest concern, not the specific numbers for any given semester. It was noted by the senators that there is considerable discrepancy between departments in terms of how evaluations are administered and made available to faculty as well as in whether or how they are referenced in annual evaluations by department heads.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cyndi Dunn