Minutes of the CSBS Senate Meeting on 11/1/10

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 10/18/10

The minutes were approved with no changes.

II. Faculty Awards

a. Regents Award

We are still awaiting notification of the deadline for this award. An announcement is expected shortly.

The senate decided that starting in 2011, the CSBS Senate will set its own deadline for nominations for the Regents Award to be made to the college senate. The deadline will be the Friday prior to the third Monday in October. This will allow for the deadline to be announced at the State of the College address and will enable the senate to discuss the nominations at its October meeting.

b. Teaching and Service Award Committee

Pending her approval, the senate appointed Kim MacLin as our college’s representative to the University Teaching and Service Award Committee.

c. James F. Lubker Research Award and January meeting

Departmental nominations for the Lubker award must be made to the dean by Friday, January 14, and the final nominations must be forwarded to the Graduate College by Monday, January 31. The senate’s normal meeting date of January 17 is a university holiday. Therefore, it was determined that the senate shall meet on January 24 to discuss the Lubker nominations and determine our schedule for curriculum review for the spring semester.

III. Proposal for a new CSBS Reward to Recognize Community Institutions

Senator Dunn made a proposal that the CSBS Senate establish a new award to recognize local community institutions (businesses, charitable organizations, government agencies) which contribute to the education of UNI students through activities such as opportunities for research or internships, field trips, or class presentations.

Questions that were discussed included how many such awards should be granted each year, the criteria in terms of the level of contribution as well as length of the relationship, and whether it would be possible to provide some more tangible token of appreciation than a simple plaque and
letter of thanks. For example, the Social Work program requires an internship for each of its students and therefore has long-standing relationships with a number of organizations and agencies that are certainly deserving of recognition for their efforts.

It was suggested that senators confer with members of their departments to get their thoughts and ideas on such an award for the senate to discuss at a future meeting. If an appropriate award and criteria can be devised, our target would be to announce the award, criteria, and nomination process for the 2011-2012 academic year.

IV. Next Senate Meeting

Due to schedule conflicts on the part of the dean and several senators, there will be no senate meeting on November 15. It may prove necessary to meet or consult via email the week following Thanksgiving. Otherwise, the next regularly scheduled senate meeting is Dec. 6.

V. Comments from the Dean

Senator Dunn asked Dean Mauceri about rumors of a new policy regarding faculty requests for extensions on the tenure clock. Dean Mauceri stated that there has been confusion about the difference between “extending” the tenure period and “stopping” the tenure clock. The Provost’s Office is currently in the process of developing a policy to address this distinction and a draft has been circulated to department heads.

This led to some discussion of the issue of standards for promotion to full professor. Departments were asked to provide standards for tenure last year, but many have not determined standards for promotion to full professor and the criteria may be somewhat different. Dean Mauceri will be organizing a brown-bag discussion on this issue during the spring semester.

Dean Mauceri also noted the upcoming visit by the accreditation team for the Higher Learning Commission. He urged everyone to read the summary of the self-study, attend one of the two faculty forums, and familiarize themselves with the university mission statement. There was some discussion of whether the university mission statement should be changed to “We make the world’s best pizza using only the freshest ingredients.”

Dean Mauceri also noted that we are currently conducting five-year reviews for two department heads (Sociology, Anthropology & Criminology and Geography) and one program director (Women’s and Gender Studies). The former divisions of Design, Textiles, Gerontology & Family Studies within the new School of Applied Human Sciences are currently engaged in their seven-year program review, as is the M.A. program in Public Policy. Political Science will conduct an internal search for a permanent department head this spring.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m., only five minutes short of the previous record.

Respectfully submitted,

Cyndi Dunn