

# **PACIFIC UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MINUTES**

**for September 25, 2008**

**Prepared by Jeff Seward, Chair Elect**

**Draft minutes not yet approved by Senate**

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by the Senate Chair, Carole Timpone.

## **Roll call.**

Senators present: Provost John Miller, Gail Aamodt, David Boersema, Jim Flory, Linda Hunt, Lynda Irons, Kevin Johnson, Shereen Khoja, James Lane, John R. Hayes, Martha Rampton, Victor Rodriguez, Lori Rynd, Jeff Seward, Carole Timpone, Mark Bailey, Rick Whiteley, Lorne Yudcovitch

Via remote from Eugene: Mark Szymanski

Senators absent: Jim Flory, John Medeiros

## **Approval of the minutes.**

The minutes of the August 28, 2008 meeting of the Senate were corrected to insert "Senate" following "Faculty" in the title of the minutes (and the same correction was ordered for the May 15, 2008 minutes). The minutes were then approved unanimously.

## **New mission statement discussion.**

At the invitation of the Senate, Pres. Phil Creighton came to discuss the formation of a committee to draft a new mission statement for the University. A new mission statement that would fully reflect changes in the structure and character of the University that have occurred in recent years was recommended by the Northwest Commission in their recent accreditation report, and the President agreed with this recommendation.

Pres. Creighton explained that revising the mission statement is a prerogative of the Board of Trustees, but, in the interests of consensus and communication, he has decided to appoint a small committee including administrators, faculty and staff to develop a draft mission statement for Board consideration. The committee members appointed by the President include the following:

James Butler, professor, College of Arts and Sciences

David Boersema, professor, College of Arts and Sciences

Scott Cooper, professor, College of Optometry

A faculty member from the College of Health Professions yet to be determined

Eva Krebs, Vice President of Student Life

Chris Wilkes, Director of Office of Research and Associate Provost

The President also requested that the Staff Senate and the Faculty Senate select one staff and one faculty representative respectively to complete the committee. The Staff Senate has selected Mike Johnson, Director of Financial Aid. Lynda Irons, the Reference and Information Services Coordinator for the Pacific University Library, was nominated to be the Faculty Senate representative and was approved unanimously (except for an abstention by Rick Whiteley).

In response to questions, the President indicated that he had appointed faculty members to the committee himself rather than asking them to be selected by faculty bodies in order to avoid politicizing the committee. He also told the Senate that he himself had no particular revisions of the mission statement in mind but was more concerned at this point with putting in place a good process for developing a new mission statement that could be embraced by the whole University community. The new mission statement could then serve to inform the development of a new strategic plan, which would likely be developed under the leadership of a new President of the University beginning next academic year. The President's goal is to receive a recommendation from the committee no later than November 15 and then submit the new mission statement to appropriate University governance bodies in November for discussion and an advisory vote.

#### **University Committee reports.**

Dave Boersema reminded the Senate that he had sent an e-mail report regarding the University Honors and Awards Committee. The chair of this committee is by custom rotated between the College of Arts and Sciences and the professional schools. The committee, therefore, needs to elect a professional schools faculty member as chair and start its work. The committee has not yet had a meeting this fall.

Provost John Miller discussed the University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. He noted that the work of this committee is closely regulated by federal law. Moreover, the committee is required to report directly to the Provost, and all of the members of the committee are appointed by the Provost. He wondered whether or not the Senate really wanted to include the committee on the list of committees that "report to" the Senate.

After some discussion that emphasized the importance of formalizing this committee in the University Handbook so that faculty could be assured of getting credit for serving on it and so that the faculty can be aware of how it is doing its work, it was agreed that the Senate did indeed want to continue to have this committee report to the Senate but only in the sense that the Senate should be kept informed of the committee's work and not in the sense of "being responsible to" the Senate.

It was moved and seconded by Jeff Seward and Martha Rampton that the Senate requests that John Miller and Chris Wilkes prepare Chapter 2 language to clarify the functioning of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee as a Standing Committee that reports to the Senate in the sense described above so that the Senate can be regularly

informed of the committee's work and serve as a forum for the discussion of any issues that arise with respect to that work. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Appointments to the University Standards and Appeals Board.**

Carole Timpone informed the Senate that the College of Optometry has nominated Nada Lingle as a member of the University Standards and Appeals Board and J. P. Lowery as an alternate member. Linda Hunt and David Boersema moved and seconded that these nominations be approved, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Carole Timpone also reminded the Senate that she is still waiting for the College of Arts and Sciences to nominate a member and alternate member for the USAB.

### **Provost report: Chapter 4 revisions and the University Assessment Plan.**

Provost John Miller gave an overview of his perspective on the proposed revisions to Chapter 4 regarding criteria for tenure and promotion that were developed by the University Personnel Committee and previously discussed by the Faculty Senate. He expressed his concern that the criteria proposed had become too specific in language to reflect the diverse conditions and situations in the different colleges and programs of the University. He suggested that, as the UPC works on further revisions to its proposal, it should try to develop broad language that would then be customized by colleges, programs, divisions, departments, and perhaps even individual faculty members to reflect their different circumstances.

Discussion of this suggestion was generally sympathetic although a few Senators expressed the feeling that the criteria developed by the UPC already were sufficiently general. There was broad agreement that the Chapter 4 revisions had not yet received as much University-wide deliberation as they deserve and need. It was reported that the UPC has not yet met this semester and has not yet selected a new chair.

Kevin Johnson moved and Rick Whiteley seconded a motion that the Senate recommend to the UPC that, in its revisions of Chapter 4 criteria for tenure and promotion, it concentrate on articulating broad principles and criteria while leaving to the respective Colleges and/or individual academic units the task of developing more specific criteria to be applied within each College that would then be reviewed by the UPC to insure consistency with its more general criteria.

This motion was approved on a 13-3 vote:

Voting in favor: Gail Aamodt, David Boersema, Linda Hunt, Lynda Irons, Kevin Johnson, Shereen Khoja, John R. Hayes, Lorne Yudcovitch, Victor Rodriguez, Lori Rind, Mark Szymanski, Mark Bailey, and Rick Whiteley

Voting against: James Lane, Martha Rampton, and Jeff Seward

### **Amendment to the Senate Bylaws.**

Jeff Seward presented draft language to amend the Senate Bylaws to create a distinction between a regular motion to receive a proposal that would allow the proposal to come to a vote at the next meeting of the Senate and a motion to "receive for deliberation only," which would trigger the development of a deliberation plan and prohibit final consideration of the proposal until the deliberative process was complete.

Dave Boersema and James Lane moved and seconded a motion to receive the proposed amendment to the Bylaws. The motion was approved unanimously, and the proposed amendment will be considered for final vote at the October meeting of the Senate.

**Draft amendment to University Handbook re University Faculty meeting agendas.**

Rick Whiteley presented draft language for an amendment to the University Handbook section 2.6.3 on "All-University Faculty Meetings." The language would add to the second paragraph of that section the following sentences: "The Faculty Senate can add business to the University Faculty Meeting Agenda by informing the Faculty Chair of that business at least thirty days prior to the scheduled meeting. The Faculty Chair will then incorporate that business into the meeting agenda." The proposed language would go to the UC as a recommendation of the Faculty Senate to be incorporated into the University Handbook.

Rick Whiteley and Martha Rampton moved and seconded a motion to receive the proposal. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.