



State University of New York
College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Faculty Governance

Minutes for September 22, 2010 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Kelley Donaghy at 3:35
Members of the Executive Committee were introduced by the Chair.

Attendance: There were approximately 69 people in attendance:

Alumni Relations: Justin Culkowski

Business Affairs: Lisa Campagna, Danette Desimone, Michele McNeill

Chemistry: Gregory Boyer, Israel Cabasso, Avik Chatterjee, Theodore Dibble, Kelley Donaghy, David Kieber, William Winter, Arthur Stipanovic

Environmental Resource Engineering: Steward Diemont, Georgios Mountrakis, Lindi Quakenbush

Environmental Science: Tim Knight

Environmental Studies: Janine DeBaise, Myrna Hall, Dawnelle Jager, Valerie Luzadis, Jack Manno, Sharon Moran, David Sonnenfeld, Elizabeth Vidon, Bennete Whitmore, Theresa Selfa

Environmental and Forest Biology: Larry Abrahamson, Danilo Fernando, Melissa Fierke, Elizabeth Folta, Jacqueline Frair, Charles Hall, Donald Leopold, Gregory McGee, Lee Newman, Roy Norton, William Powell, Kimberly Schulz, William Shields, J Scott Turner, Christopher Whipps

Financial Aid: John View

Forest and Natural Resources Management: Eddie Bevilacqua, Peter Black, Chad Dawson, Rene Germain, Robert Malmsheimer, David Newman, John Stella, Phillippe Vidon, John Wagner, Lianjun Zhang

Landscape Architecture: Margaret Bryant, Robin Hoffman

Moon Library: JoAnne Ellis, Stephen Weiter

Outreach: Charles Spuches, Richard Beal

Paper Bioprocess Engineering: Thomas Amidon, Klaus Doelle, Raymond Francis, Yuan-Zong Lai, Shijie Liu, Bandaru Ramarao, Gary Scott

Research Programs: Mark Driscoll, Neil Ringler

Student Representatives: Kathleen Barnhill

Sustainable Construction Management and Engineering: Susan Anagnost, Robert Meyer, William Smith

Administration: Cornelius Murphy, Bruce Bongarten, Scott Shannon, Marcia Barber

1. Committee Reports (attached)

a. Committee on Awards (Manno)

We need nominations for awards and recognition from the faculty. A schedule of awards and nominations deadlines was presented.

- b. Committee on Research (Frair)
Deadlines for the McIntyre-Stennis Grants and SEED grant RFPs were presented. There was discussion regarding the restrictions on Mc-Stennis grants relating to US based research programs and the rules of CSREES. Dr. Newman pointed out that CSREES has changed its acronym to NIFA (?)
- c. Committee on Instruction (Doelle)
Meeting dates for the committee on Instruction were presented along with a request that all submissions for course changes and course proposals be sent to the committee three weeks in advance of the scheduled meeting so that there is appropriate time to post and review those proposals

2. General Education Requirements Update (Shannon)

Dean Shannon announced that the SUNY Board of Trustees has changed its Gen. Ed. Requirements to reflect 27 credit hours in seven areas of study (as opposed to the previous 27 credit hours in nine areas of study). COI will discuss implementation plans, which will include which class groups will be affected by these changes, and other necessary aspects of putting the new requirements in place.

3. Introduction of New Faculty

- a. Philippe Vidon (Newman, NFRM)
- b. Theresa Selfa, and visiting instructor Elizabeth Vidon (Luzadis, Env. Studies)
- c. Beth Folta and Lee Newman (Leopold, EFB)

4. GSA Representative (Barnhill)

Katie Barnhill, incoming President of GSA brought greetings and a message that GSA was working towards strengthening relationships with the faculty, starting with a TG on October 1, to which all faculty are invited. GSA will also focus on emphasizing professional development, speaker series and international student events in the coming year.

5. SEFA United Way Campaign

Terry Ettinger announced the kick-off of this year's campaign will be the Taste of ESF event on October 13, which was very successful last year. He and co-Chair Lisa Campagna need names of area coordinators as soon as possible from each department. There are new incentives and awards for donations and participation in SEFA events this year.

6. State of the College Address (Murphy)

President Murphy presented information on the college rankings achieved by ESF in the past year, highlighting those of Washington Monthly, Forbes, US News and World Report, and Sierra magazine. The college has fared very well on many fronts in this arena.

President Murphy also presented an outline of the \$40.8 million budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. ESF took a 2.4% cut in our state allocation, and will utilize \$1.6 million from our reserves to offset those losses. The largest cost increase was in personnel services, there was a 5% contractual increase in the cost of services for accessory education. Retirement incentive savings will amount to \$450,000.

Enrollment (full and part time) for the current year is at 2020 undergraduates and 545 graduate students, constituting 1,999 AAFTE.

Construction projects continue with the cornerstone laying last Thursday for the student residence building – Centennial Hall, which will be LEED Silver or LEED Gold certified and a “game changer” for the College. The residence hall will feature Stickley furniture, and will serve as a beta test site for a new institutional furnishing line of products for that company.

The changes to the parking circle and lots between Bray and Walters are now expected to be substantially complete prior to Alumni and Parents Weekend.

Construction has started on the Gateway Building, which is expected – among other wonderful features – to provide 60% of the thermal needs for the campus, thus reducing our energy costs.

The Mighty Oaks sports teams – specifically the men’s and women’s soccer teams made the sports page of the Post Standard.

There were no comments or questions at the end of the presentation.

7. Promotion and Tenure Document (Bongarten/Leopold)

Bruce Bongarten and Don Leopold chaired a feedback session on the proposed draft procedures for tenure and promotion for non-library faculty. The purpose of the session was to gain feedback and listen to faculty comments on the proposal and not to debate the proposal. There were a number of comments summarized as follows:

Scott Turner: Why specifically, no discussion in this document of a college wide review proposal?

Israel Cabasso: past practice has been to grant tenure at the departmental level, thus ensuring the retention of positions within the department.

Greg Boyer: Dates and Timelines are too proscriptive and should be relaxed.

Bill Shields: P. 16 lines 4-6 refer to voting by the faculty on candidates’ merit at department meeting as described. This should be changed.

Bill Shields: College workload policy referred to in the document is flawed and should not be used as a criteria or standard for tenure and promotion decisions.

Chad Dawson: There are no individual job descriptions, and the package should include an individual description of the candidate’s workplan. Leads to guessing at true workload.

Jacqui Frair: December 15 is a tough deadline to meet for teaching faculty.

Jacqui Frair: Definition of Internal Reviewers leaves no one who could possibly serve as evaluator/reviewer.

Jacqui Frair: Chairs have more say in membership of their committees and committee structure than other candidates.

Charlie Hall; Underlings shoulder the blame for policies approved by their bosses

Unknown: another sentiment that timelines are not realistic.

Steward Diemont: Excited by this effort, but it is confusing for young faculty in mid-stream of the process. Are there provisions to grandfather in those who are already working through mentor system/other guidelines?

Bruce Bongarten: Transition will be done fairly. However, too many departmental procedures and documents have far too many holes in them.

Phillipe Vidon: IUPUI went through a similar process recently, but with some differences. i.e., Chairs could decide to grandfather existing faculty in P&T pipeline.

Bill Shields: There are semantic problems with some of the language in the criteria.

Steward Diemont: The document should incorporate existing departmental guidelines or include a separate transitional reference/document.

Unknown: What if someone comes in at a rank higher than Assistant Professor or seeks early review?

Bruce Bongarten: Prior service credit is given for the prior three years.

Phillipe Vidon: Can you seek tenure earlier?

Bruce Bongarten: yes but you need to seek and be granted promotion at the same time.

8. Other Concerns/Announcements

There were none.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Next meeting will be October 20, 2010, 3:30 PM in Baker 408.