

MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2003
LEAVEY PROGRAM ROOM
(Approved 2/17/04)

PRESENT: Andrews, Arend, Bates, D. Betz, P. Betz, Bonanno, Douglas Brown, Clarke, Cleary, Connor-Linton, Cumby, Danielsen, Davis, Fink, Friedman, Furth, Gale, Glazer, Haramati, Hirsh, Hussey, Iglarsh, Joyner, Keesling, Lamiell, Larsen, McFadden, S.J., Moscovitch, Owens, Pfeiffer, Ronkainen, Sedmak, Shad, Shedel, Stent, Verbalis, Vroman, Walker, J. Walsh, S.J., T. Walsh, Walters, Weiss, Witek, S.J.

ABSENT: Areen, Bloch, Byrne, Cohn, Diamond, Dimolitsas, Dover, Ernst, Gallucci, Goldfrank, Haft, Hauser, Lachat, Lieber, Lightfoot, Linafelt, Little, Mastorovich, Mayo, McAuliffe, McCabe, Moran Cruz, Mujal-Leon, Murphy, Oakley, A. O'Donnell, J. O'Donnell, Pedrick, Rameh, Richmond, Ross, Salles-Reese, Sandberg, C. Sanz, L. Sanz, Sistrunk, Sitterson, Taylor, Tilden, Weidenbruch

GUESTS: Gloria Massaro

The meeting was called to order at 4:20 pm by Professor Wayne Davis.

The minutes of the October 21 meeting were approved unanimously.

Three Law Center nominees for University committees were confirmed unanimously. They were:

Professor Jack Murphy- Conflict of Interest Committee
Professor James Feinerman- Investments and Social Responsibility Committee
Professor Peter Byrne- Affirmative Action Committee

Professor Davis introduced the main topic for today's meeting: the revisions to the Faculty Handbook being proposed by the Governance Committee. Suggested changes will be brought to the Senate for approval as they are proposed. The Senate will eventually be asked to approve the new handbook in its entirety.

Professor Arend presented the Governance Committee's first recommended revisions to the Faculty Handbook. They were (1) eliminating the term "officer of instruction," and (2) replacing the term "Ordinary Faculty" with "tenure-line faculty."

Motion: Delete term "officers of instruction" and the claim that faculty are officers of instruction wherever it appears in the Faculty Handbook.
Approved unanimously.

Motion: the term “ordinary faculty” will be replaced with “tenure-line faculty” wherever it appears in the Faculty Handbook. Approved 41-1-0.

The Governance Committee also recommended that the “Faculty Rights and Responsibilities” section begin with an explicit definition of “faculty member.”

The proposed definition was: “A Faculty Member is anyone so designated in a letter of appointment from the President or an Executive Vice-President of the University.” Concern was expressed that this definition was not precise enough, and allowed for the possibility that the President could “sell” faculty positions to raise money, as has occurred at another university. It was suggested that the definition should include the requirement of teaching and/or research. Considerable discussion followed.

There was concern expressed about the role of librarians, whose letters of appointment do not state that they are faculty. Professor Arend stated that the issue of librarian status would be addressed by the Governance Committee in the future.

Professor Davis noted that the President does in fact have the power to appoint faculty, and the Faculty Handbook cannot take that away from him/her.

If, however, they were to appoint someone unqualified and/or without going through the proper channels, that would be an actionable offense and the administrator would be held accountable. To better ensure this, it was proposed that the faculty handbook say the President and Executive Vice Presidents “are bound” instead of “should be guided” by the rights and responsibilities specified in the Faculty Handbook when making new appointments. There are problems with this terminology as well, though.

Discussion continued. One suggestion was combining the substantive and procedural definitions into one sentence, calling a faculty member someone who receives a letter of appointment *and* teaches and/or conducts research. After discussion about more specific teaching and research qualifications and wording, it was noted that teaching, research and service will all be spelled out in great detail in later sections.

A motion was made to use the following definition of faculty member in the Faculty Handbook: “A faculty member is anyone appointed by the President or an Executive Vice-President as a faculty member to teach and/or conduct research for the University.” The motion was approved unanimously.

It was moved that the following statement, proposed by the Governance Committee, be added to the Faculty Handbook immediately following the definition of a faculty member: “The President and Executive Vice Presidents should be guided in making faculty appointments by the rights and responsibilities specified in this *Handbook* and by any applicable University or campus policies.” The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm.