

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

March 23, 1999 - 2:00 PM

Coolbaugh House

ATTENDEES: Ely, Klusman, Lu, Nickum, E. Pang, Readey, Romberger, Underwood, Van Tyne, Wendlandt

APOLOGIES: Griffiths, Kidnay, and Ohno

Trefny was out-of-town.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. There will not be a Faculty Forum on March 24, 1999. There was a consensus among the Senators to have President Bickart make a presentation reflecting on his first year at CSM at the September Faculty Forum. For the October Faculty Forum, it was suggested that the "catch-up" curriculum be presented to the entire Faculty for discussion.
- B. Greenberg stated in a letter to Romberger that the committee to choose the Faculty Senate Distinguished Lecturer did not want to combine that function with that of Grand Marshal. Underwood **nominated Rex Bull** to serve as the Grand Marshal for May 1999. Readey seconded the nomination. Faculty Senate passed the nomination unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The March 2, 1999 minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **Academic Regulations** -following is a report from Kidnay on The Academic Standards Committee meeting of March 11, 1999.

Present were Arthur Kidnay (chair), Harold Cheuvront, Suzanne Northcote, and Craig Simmons.

The items recommended for discussion by the Faculty Senate were:

- 1) Grade inflation
- 2) The grading system
- 3) Students taking a course more than once simply to improve their GPA.

Grade Inflation After examining the data supplied by the Registrar, the opinion of the Committee was that there was no obvious problem. The Committee felt that it was the responsibility of each Department Head/Division Director to monitor the grades in his or her Department and take appropriate action if a faculty member's grades were inconsistent with those given by other members of the Department.

The Grading System The Committee endorsed the idea of moving to a plus, minus system. The system at the University of Illinois at Urbana is presented as a possible option. Note that the A+ is for recognition only; it doesn't count in the GPA.

The committee recommended the following policy: A student receiving a grade of C or higher in a course may not repeat the course without permission of the Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students."

- 1. Grade Inflation - Senators would like to see the data on which the Academic

Standards Committee based their decision that there was no grade inflation.

2. Grading System - The Senators will get feedback from their departments/divisions on the University of Illinois at Urbana grading system, (A = 4.00; A-= 3.67; B+= 3.33; B = 3.00; B-= 2.67, etc). Romberger will e-mail the entire faculty requesting their response before the April 6, 1999 Faculty Senate meeting. This grading system will be discussed at the April 6, 1999 meeting.
3. Multiple Grades for the Same Course - A **motion** was made by Ely and seconded by Readey to change the Academic Standards Committee recommendation to state that a student receiving a grade of "C" or better in a course may retake the course by obtaining the approval of:
 - (1) their advisor;
 - (2) their major department/division head; and
 - (3) the department/division head of the course if that is different than their major.

The **motion passed** unanimously.

- B. **Performance Evaluations** - The Senators agreed that this item had been completed and did not require further discussion.
- C. **Changing Period of Tenure of Senate Committees/Membership** -A motion was made by Ely and seconded by Klusman that the faculty Bylaws be amended so that all Faculty Senate Committees and Faculty Senate Councils membership would be on an academic year basis beginning May 2000. The Parliamentarian stated that this was more than an editorial change to the Faculty Bylaws and would require a vote by the entire faculty. Readey made a motion to table the above motion. The vote was unanimous. Romberger will e-mail the faculty for their input.
- D. **Joint meeting of Faculty Senate and Department/Division Heads** - The Senators agreed to meet with the Department/Division Heads to discuss the promotion and tenure issue on March 29, 1999 in the Guggenheim Board Room at 4:00 pm.
- E. **Calendar Committee** - This was discussed by the Executive Committee. Romberger reported that it is a broader issue than that which the Senate had considered. It should be a School-wide committee.

NEW BUSINESS: These items were not discussed because of the time.

- A. Safety Committee proposal on storage on School premises.
- B. Procedures for including policy changes in appropriate bulletins, procedure manuals, *Brunton*, Faculty handbook and the Faculty Bylaws.
- C. Change the name of the Academic Standards Committee to the Academic Standards and Policies Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 PM