

MINUTES

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

April 1, 2003

Members present: Roger Adams, Mike Dryden, Kevin Gwinner, John Heublein, Eric Maatta, Barb Newhouse, Frank Spikes.

Guests: Al Cochran, Jerry Frieman, Jennifer Gehrt

The meeting began at 4:15 p.m. in Union 205. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved without change.

Eric gave an update on budget projections and possible scenarios for future tuition distributions, as outlined at a meeting on March between Faculty Senate Leadership, the Council of Deans and the President's staff..

Eric also reported on feedback received from Ruth Dyer regarding our three questions about the Interim Policy on Mediation (Appendix U). 1) According to Ruth, we are envisioning the role of the Memorandum of Understanding correctly: it is completely non-binding and appears to be the written analogue of a handshake to cement a deal. It exists simply as a means to delineate what agreements were reached. 2) Ruth saw no conflict between the "voluntary, non-binding" definition of the process (item 1) and the consequences of an incomplete "disclosure of all relevant information" (item 6): when mediation is agreed to, disclosure is a key component of that agreement, and failure to completely disclose pertinent material can result in the abrogation of any agreement resulting from the process. 3) Ruth strongly recommended that we not consider changing policy to allow for a "Grievance clock re-start" in the circumstance where a Grievance Hearing was suspended in favor of Mediation, and the Mediation was subsequently abandoned. While acknowledging the pressure such a situation would place on all parties involved with the Grievance, it is her opinion that the disadvantages of further delay outweigh any possible benefits.

Jerry Frieman initiated a continuation of our discussion on the General University Caucus' request for broadening the definition of "General Faculty" (Section B 80) by summarizing the process leading to the Senate re-apportionment agreed to last year. Jerry pointed out that the Committee's report articulated that while the body remains a Faculty Senate, it will contain representation from unclassified professionals (non-term employees); Jerry also noted that there will be times when the concerns of the Faculty differ from those of Unclassified Professionals. Eric added his opinion that decisions on changes affecting academic matters should remain the province of faculty members. Other committee members shared feedback received from their constituents. An extended, occasionally spirited, discussion followed. Although it was clear that several in attendance would not support the proposed change, there was unanimous regard expressed for the vital contributions of unclassified professionals to the functioning of the University and in shared governance. The question of whether to continue the

discussion at another venue (at Senate, or at a General Faculty meeting, or in a joint meeting of Senate Leadership with General University Caucus) was left unresolved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Maatta