CNS Faculty Senate Minutes
April 1, 2011 3:30 p.m.

Present: Kurt Pontasch, Bob Seager, Michael Walter (Biology); Laura Strauss (Chemistry and Biochemistry); Aleksandar Poleksic (Computer Science); John Groves (Earth Science); Julie Zhang, Jin Zhu (Industrial Technology); Jihwa Noh, Suzanne Riehl, Nikolay Silkin (Mathematics); John Deisz (Physics), Jeff Morgan (Science Education)

CNS Vice Chair Pontasch called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

1. The meeting began with the problem presented by Industrial Technology: the requirement to request course time waivers each semester for classes offered outside of the Registrar's office time schedule.

   a. All represented departments mentioned that they request variances each semester.

   b. Suggestion: Once a course time structure has had an approved variance, departments should not have to apply each semester. The question was raised whether this would be a permanent status or if departments should re-apply for these variances every five years (or some other time frame).

   c. Suggestion: Senators would collect the variance requests from each department so that we would have data on how widespread the issue is. Numbers should be forwarded to Chair Riehl, who will consult with the Dean as to where and with whom this problem should be discussed.

   d. Suggestion (from Biology): There should be no need for justification for variances for 200/6000-level courses, as well as seminar (arranged schedule) courses.

2. The senators were given a list of vacancies on College and University committees. Poleksic requested that the list be given to the senators electronically to ease forwarding to faculty in departments. Names must be put forward by April 8.
3. Departments should determine their senators by mid-April. Meetings for the combined college will take place on Mondays at 3:30 p.m.

4. Jerry Smith (Management), Ginny Arthur (associate provost for faculty affairs), John Ophus (Biology, CNS LAC committee representative), and Deirdre Heistad (Modern Languages, director of the LAC) were present to consult with the senate about possible revisions to the LAC. Senators voiced several concerns about the “color coded” proposals floated to the University committee, including the perceived dilution of the science requirements. Heistad stated that the committee was interested in gathering feedback from faculty about what the outcomes of the LAC should be. Arthur mentioned that it is possible that none of the proposed models will be adopted and that the LAC will remain in its current form. Heistad closed the conversation by stating that the committee wishes to continue the conversation on the LAC and welcomes faculty who wish to join the conversation.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Morgan