Academic Council Meeting
September 12, 2005
Canisius Hall Room 209

[Approved by the Academic Council on October 3, 2005.]

Present: Professors Bill Abbott, Rick DeWitt, Faith-Anne Dohm, Don Gibson, Donald Greenberg, Ingeborg Haug, James He, Dennis Keenan, Paul Lakeland, George Lang, Jean Lange, Mark Ligas, Irene Mulvey (Secretary of the General Faculty), Ed O’Neill, Susan Rakowitz, David Sapp, L. Kraig Steffen, and Jo Yarrington;

President Jeffrey von Arx, S.J.

Academic Vice President Orin Grossman


Visitor: Professor Meredith Wallace

Professor Irene Mulvey called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM.

0. Professor Abbott selected at random the name of Professor O’Neill from those eligible to be Recording Secretary for this meeting. This position rotates alphabetically through the faculty members of the Council during the school year. Professor Dohm was unanimously elected Chairperson and Professor DeWitt was unanimously elected Executive Secretary for the school year. Hearty congratulations were extended to both members of the new Executive Committee.

1. Presidential Courtesy. Academic Vice President Grossman extended a warm welcome to the continuing members of the Council and to the new members joining the Council this year. There was no message from the President.

2. Report from the Secretary of the General Faculty. Professor Mulvey welcomed the members of the Council and expressed her availability by voice or email to all members throughout the year. She distributed a memorandum of the guidelines which should be followed when minutes of the Academic Council are prepared. She stated that the minutes should be available in draft form for the executive committee of the Council by the Friday of the week of the meeting. The Committee on Committees would be meeting this Thursday with ample volunteers to fill faculty committee vacancies which had been announced. There was a need for student members on some faculty committees, which had been filled, in a timely fashion by the new FUSA President. She referred the members to the website she maintains http://www.faculty.fairfield.edu/gfs/ which has all General Faculty Secretary information on the Council, the General Faculty, and the Faculty Committees.
3. Report from the Executive Secretary. None.

4. Council Committee Reports. None.

5. Petition for Immediate Hearing. None.


   a. Elect faculty representatives to the Honorary Degree Committee. Professor Mulvey distributed a ballot with 5 faculty who responded to her request for nominations. The Executive Secretary, Professor DeWitt, later on reported that

   the nominees elected by the Council to be faculty representatives to the Honorary Degree Committee were Professors Ingeborg Haug, Sister Julianna Poole, and Joan van Hise.

   b. Faculty Representation on the Search Committee for the Dean of GSEAP. Academic Vice President Grossman said that the search committee would be chaired by AVP Grossman and would consist of 9 additional persons, 5 faculty members and 4 additional people he would appoint. In his recollection it had been the recent past practice that the 5 faculty were chosen with 4 from the school whose new Dean was sought and one professor from an outside school. Professor Haug stated that her school had met to discuss their representation and wished for her to bring the names of the 5 professors who were Chairs of their departments as the 5 faculty on the Search Committee. AVP Grossman stated that all decanal search committees he knew had one professor from another school. Dean Snyder remarked that he thought a professor from Arts & Sciences would be a good representative on the committee as the different schools have to work together and the outside perspective would be beneficial. Professor Lang commented that he recalled when he was Faculty Secretary the search committee selecting Dean Simoes contained Professors Lucy Katz and Christopher Mooney who were from different schools, and he agreed that outside representatives were a good idea for this committee. Professor Greenberg said it was imperative to have outside the school representation. Professor Yarrington said that the Handbook does not state the number on the committee must be 9 and if it were 11, it would be possible to have the 5 Chairs from GSEAP, one outside faculty representative and the Academic Vice President could appoint 5 other members. Professor Greenberg stated that the larger the size of a committee the more cumbersome it becomes and the size 9 seems to work best.

Professor Keenan moved and Professor Rakowitz seconded the motion that
**MOTION.** the Academic Council directs the Secretary of the General Faculty to send a call for nominations or volunteers to the Search Committee for the Dean of GSEAP, with responses to be received by Friday of this week, the faculty representation to consist of 4 from the GSEAP and 1 from outside the school.

Academic Vice President Grossman said that he interpreted the Faculty Handbook wording concerning the composition of the search committee as preventing him from appointing a faculty member to serve. Professor Keenan said this had been discussed over the summer and it was his personal opinion that the Academic Vice President could appoint a faculty member. Professor Mulvey strongly disagreed with that interpretation and agreed with the AVP’s interpretation.

Professor Lang called the question which passed 14-0-1 and the **MAIN MOTION PASSED 15-0-1**

c. **Changes to Research Committee Guidelines** Professor Wallace from the Research Committee arrived and spoke about the desire of the committee to have the guidelines reflect the consensus that time spent teaching at another university not be counted in the new wording suggested for the Pre-tenure Research Leave Program Guidelines.

Professor Keenan stated that, if a faculty member had been teaching at Fairfield for 3 or 4 years, they would be excluded from eligibility. Academic Vice President Grossman agreed that would be the case and saw nothing wrong with conditions which would exclude some from eligibility. Professor Lang stated his desire for the wording in the guidelines to conform to the terminology in the Faculty Handbook and the Journal of Record and reference to “tenure-track” should be replaced by “full-time” or “visiting” or appropriate terms, which are defined in the Handbook. Professor Rakowitz commented that a faculty member who taught full-time elsewhere for 3 years and taught at Fairfield for 2 years would be eligible for this program in their 6th year with the current wording. Academic Vice President Grossman stated that there were consequences to starting fresh at Fairfield versus negotiating credit for prior teaching experience. Professor Steffen said that in the sciences the visiting faculty who are hired full-time usually have a 4 course load and they are disadvantaged because of lack of support for research space/equipment. After 3 or 4 years if they were hired full-time with tenure aspirations they would be ineligible with these guidelines. Professor Rakowitz stated that someone who negotiated 3 or 4 years of prior service should be eligible sooner for a normal sabbatical.

President Jeffrey P. von Arx, S.J. arrived at about 4:20 pm and Chairperson Dohm recognized him and provided Presidential courtesy, if he desired. He extended a warm welcome to the Council and stated that the Strategic Plan would be rolled out at the end of
this week or early next week. It did not contain many details; mainly goals and visions, with the implementation details coming later on. It would be available on an intranet site for the University community to read and comment on by the end of October. He would chair a small editorial committee consisting of Barbara Kiernan, Nancy Dallavalle, James Estrada, and Mark Reed to consider any revisions before it would go to the Board of Trustees in early December. He anticipated that the Trustees might desire more financial planning than currently included in the plan.

Returning to the agenda topic, Professor Lang wanted the wording to match the Handbook phrasing. He said that the scenario of a visiting faculty member with a Ph.D. who had aspirations for a permanent position with tenure should be aided by Fairfield in launching his career with lab space/equipment. Dean Snyder wanted the minutes to reflect that it was the practice now to give visiting faculty lab space and equipment and support for professional travel to help their careers.

Professor Wallace stated that the Research Committee wanted the Summer Research Stipend Guidelines to clarify that a recipient could not receive support simultaneously from the Ignatian Residential College and the Faculty Research Committee for a project. Professor Sapp mentioned that he thought that the Dolan School of Business also had summer research stipends, which also might cause a faculty member to be multiply supported. Dean Solomon confirmed that was the case. The Research Committee might also want to use wording to prevent this. Dean Snyder suggested using language which was more generic: “what other support are you requesting for the summer?” Professor Sapp said it might be possible for a faculty member to receive funds from 3 sources for one project for the summer and this should be prevented.

Professor Wallace stated that the Research Committee wanted the Senior Summer Fellowship Guidelines to clarify that a recipient could not receive this support during the summer before or after the academic year of a sabbatical leave. Professor Haug moved and Professor Steffen seconded the motion that

**MOTION.** The Academic Council approves the new wording of the Faculty Research Committee’s Guidelines for the Senior Summer Fellowship

Dean Snyder spoke against the motion saying that for many faculty members the best time for serious scholarly work is during a summer adjacent to a sabbatical leave. Professor Yarrington spoke against the motion agreeing that she could foresee the time during a summer adjacent to a sabbatical leave would be spent on scholarly work related to the sabbatical and deserved to be eligible for support with this fellowship.

Professor Lang moved to **table this motion.** **MOTION TO TABLE THE MAIN MOTION PASSED 16-0-0**
Professor DeWitt moved and Professor Yarrington seconded the motion that

**MOTION. the three revisions of guidelines are referred back to the Research Committee for additional work.**

Professor Mulvey spoke in favor of the motion but she wanted the Research Committee to provide a rationale for each change in the guidelines they would be requesting. She said that this agenda item was added quite late and, due to the timing, she was not able to request rationale from the committee before our consideration.

The **MOTION PASSED PASSED 16-0-0.**

Professor O’Neill, seconded by Professor Steffen, made a **MOTION TO ADJOURN**, which **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Submitted by
Ed O’Neill
Recording Secretary

[Approved by the Academic Council on October 3, 2005.]