



UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE RECORD

Minutes of the Faculty Meeting
December 6, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 12:00PM by Professor Martin Ligare, Chair of the Faculty.

Announcements by the Chair of the Faculty

Professor Ligare began with a reminder to all in attendance to return promptly the annual request for Conflict of Interest forms to be found online.

Next Professor Ligare reported on the activities of the Faculty Council which, as part of the University Council, looked over and discussed a pre-draft of the version 2 draft of the Strategic Plan scheduled to go out this week. The Faculty Council will continue to fulfill the role it was charged with at the last faculty meeting; it will continue to communicate the timeline of tactical decisions, how these decisions are made, and insure that a university-wide consensus is reached.

Then, Professor Ligare gave the floor to Professor John Peeler who, given its time-sensitive nature, was allowed to make a motion that was not on the agenda. The motion concerned the detention of Berhanu Nega, a colleague who taught at Bucknell. Dr. Berhanu Nega was recently elected Mayor of Addis Ababa and subsequently imprisoned. Professor Peeler's motion took the form of a message to be forwarded to the Ethiopian Ambassador:

To:

*The Honorable Ambassador
Republic of Ethiopia
Washington, DC*

The Faculty of Bucknell University has learned, to our profound dismay, of the imprisonment of Dr. Berhanu Nega, formerly a member of this Faculty, and recently elected as Mayor of Addis Ababa.

During his tenure at this University, Dr. Nega was a dedicated teacher and an active, principled scholar. He left a promising career here to return to his beloved Ethiopia, to serve his people more directly than he could have done here. He has been a tireless and fearless advocate of democracy and development in Ethiopia. His imprisonment after his victory in the recent elections is a profound injustice which can only tarnish the name of Ethiopia in the world.

We ask that you urgently transmit this message to your government.

Voted on and approved by the Faculty this day, 6 December 2005.

Martin Ligare, Chair

*Cc: Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State
Senators Arlen Specter, Rick Santorum*

The motion was seconded, voted on and carried unanimously. Professor Ligare will forward the letter to the Ethiopian Ambassador.

Next Professor Ligare announced that Professor Erik Lofgren is willing to serve as Secretary of the Faculty for Spring 2006. Elections will take place in the Spring to fill next year's absence of the undersigned. Professor Ligare called for additional nominations. None were brought forth.

New Business

Professor Karen Morin presented a report from the Faculty Development Committee. The committee reviewed and recommended approval of 30 sabbatical leave proposals. Of the 30 proposals, 9 faculty members requested 75% funding (for only three such awards available). The committee also reviewed and recommended approval of 23 untenured faculty leave proposals. Finally, the committee reviewed 12 course release proposals and expects to approval of all of them.

Next Professor Amy McCready on behalf of the Faculty and Academic Personnel Committee reported on a Handbook revision proposing that a faculty member taking either a one-semester or a full-year untenured leave may opt not to count that year as service toward tenure. The proposed revision awaits review by CAFT and the administration. The committee also proposed a revision to the guidelines for travel to professional meetings. The revision awaits information about funding.

Then, Professor Gary Grant reported on actions taken by the Committee on Complementary Activities such as the approval of the Committee on Greek Life proposal for GPA Standing in Plan for Prominence (Gold Standing: 3.50; Silver standing: 3.33; good standing: 3.00). The committee also endorsed an increase in student activities fee to fund a pilot program for Residence Hall Association. Finally, the committee formed an ad hoc committee with members of CCA, COI, BSG, students at large and the administration to review the Student Bill of Rights proposal. Upcoming agenda items include a discussion of the Strategic Plan in the core area of the Residential Learning Experience and the role of CCA as a conduit for planning in the tactical phase of the Strategic Plan.

Next on the agenda was Professor Ben Marsh, who introduced his report from the Committee on Planning and Budget on an optimistic note remarking that Trustees at the November Board meeting expressed respect for the accomplishments of the Faculty. See report attached to the agenda for this meeting. Professor Marsh concluded his report by saying that the operating budget is tight and will remain that way for the next few years. A year-end report on the 2004 – 05 budget year is appended to the agenda for this meeting.

Then, Professor Kevin Myers introduced a motion from the Committee on Instruction by saying that the goal was to restart a long tradition of reporting grade distribution to Faculty. If the motion passes, grade reporting will start this summer and could start reporting for the past 8-9 years. No student will have direct access to the information.

The Committee on Instruction moves that the Faculty approve the plan described in the attached report for annual dissemination of grading statistics to faculty members.

The motion was seconded. Professor Myers gave some background information (see report attached to agenda for this meeting) and answered questions concerning the proposed benefits of such a reporting by saying that the policy would be intended for informational purposes as COI needs insight to make decisions about certain processes. Grades for 600-level courses would not be included in this reporting. JT Dean, who serves on COI and as academic chair of BSG, expressed concerns that the distribution of these grades might result in tougher grading standards, and recommended caution in the interest of both students and Faculty. Professor Rosaria Gabriele remarked that other complex data besides the department needs to be examined, issues such as gender, the number of years of teaching, tenure etc. Professor Myers recognized that such questions in time might be taken into account by an ad hoc committee; however the motion represents a first step to make available information that's been lacking for a long time. Professor Marsh recommended that a freeze on the proposed reporting of grade distribution may be in order if there is any danger of breach of confidentiality, and he moved to return the proposal to the committee for further consideration. The motion was seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 12:52PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Philippe C. Dubois
Secretary of the Faculty