FACULTY COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

November 6, 2008

CLS-1002
1:40 P.M.-2:50 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Chair Effie Kritikos, Lesa Davis, Jon Hageman, Mostafa Maksy, Dan Milsky, Emmanuel Nyadroh, Tim Scherman

Absent: Kim Ambiz, Janalyn Meehan, Cyndi Moran

Ex-Officio: Provost Larry Frank, Janice Harring-Hendon

Guests: Janet Sandoval, Suzanne Benson, Wamucii Njogu

1. **Old Business**

2. **Approval of Minutes**
   - Do not list specific corrections for prior minutes.
   - October 2, 2008
     Maksy (Scherman) moved for approval. Motion approved.
   - October 16, 2008
     Scherman (Milsky).moved for approval after all corrections. Motion approved.

3. **Report from Chair**
   - WIFAC met twice. 2 New proposals were reviewed by WIFAC; 1 proposal was accepted and 1 (business syllabus) requires revision. 4 WIFAC proposals (in total) are in process.
   - Emmanuel Nyadroh will facilitate development of bylaws.
   - Send comments regarding bylaws to Chair Kritikos.
   - Global Studies Task Force – Chair Kritikos sent three distinct letters to specified individuals and received positive responses.
   - The Chair sent a letter to FacSen re: appointment of Dan Milsky as FacSen rep.
   - College committees received memos asking them to give feedback on the proposal approval process.

4. Report from Provost

- The Army ROTC proposal for a curriculum taught on-campus was discussed. Two courses would be taught wherever and whenever convenient for NEIU administration. ROTC (non-NEIU) teachers would teach two first-year courses; a 1-credit hour course would be followed by a 2-credit hour course. Students do not contractually enlist in the Army until after they take these courses, at which time they enroll for ROTC courses at UIC – as the regional director of ROTC is at UIC. Approximately 7 to 12 NEIU students are currently enrolled in ROTC courses at UIC or DePaul. The advantage to students is full-ride scholarship potential. University advantage is maintenance of federal funding. Note that the Solomon Amendment allows the federal government to cut federal funding if recruiting is not allowed on-campus. The Faculty Senate heard a presentation by ROTC representatives in May. FacSen did not vote on the topic. FCAA considered the issue in prior meetings. FCAA concerns remain regarding whether the curriculum meets university standards. In May, FCAA moved for review by three colleges and FCAA. Although the Honors Program is reviewed by three colleges, the Provost felt this is not typical and thereby not recommended practice. ROTC conducts extensive online student evaluation annually. Additionally, NEIU may evaluate the courses.

  ROTC claims that the policy of 'don't ask, don't tell' is not the Army's position as it was developed in the legislature. Additionally, the Army claims that since students don't enlist until after first-year course work that NEIU is not advocating war. To the contrary, the Army believes that the ROTC curriculum supports a diverse curriculum. The curriculum is a national curriculum which requires two textbooks for the two courses. The initial one-hour course is an introduction to service as an officer and covers values, fitness, life skills, interpersonal relationship, and leadership. The subsequent two-hour course regards problem-solving and decision-making (additional leadership and management study).

  Overall, FCAA must inform the_entire university community regarding ROTC's potential presence on-campus, and why its presence may take hold. University-wide notice could be provided through a challenge proposal and a cover article in the Independent school newspaper.

  FCAA must determine how well ROTC courses fit with existing NEIU curricula.

  Davis (Maksy) moved that the ROTC curricular proposal be reviewed by the Curriculum Committee; that a memorandum will be prepared by FCAA Chair Kritikos and disseminated throughout the university community regarding the Curriculum Committee's opinion; that the FCAA will review the letter prior to distribution, before the next session; that the Provost will forward all background materials to the Curriculum Committee; that ROTC representation will be asked to visit, if deemed necessary by the Co-Chair of the Curriculum Committee, to answer further questions; that the ROTC curricular proposal will be subject to a

ten-day challenge period; and that Angeles Eames will develop an assessment strategy, if necessary..

5. Report from the Curriculum Committee

Tim Scherman and Jon Hageman will revisit the issue of Title Varies Courses next meeting.

- Board of Governors degree is recommended for name change to Baccalaureate of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, a more descriptive title. The existing name is historical but not functional for NEIU graduates seeking post-graduate employment and academic opportunities. Three courses will be introduced soon as the curriculum is re-vamped by adding new courses (only), which will likely be offered in Fall 2009. NEIU alumni may not retrofit their degrees to the new title.

Scherman moved to approve program name change from Board of Governors to Baccalaureate of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies. Motion approved.

- Curricular proposals are forthcoming to WIFAC, then FCAA.

7. **New Business**

- Curricular proposals, title varies courses and a Strategic Plan update by the Provost will be considered at the next meeting.

8. Adjournment

- Maksy (Scherman) moved to adjourn at 2:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mostafa Maksy

Secretary