

RP&A Minutes
WEDNESDAY October 10, 2007
1:00 – 3:30 PM
Electrical Engineering 236

Attending: Kurt Kosbar, Dick DuBroff, Jeff Smith, Eun Soo Park, Ola Alhgan, Doug Carroll, Alex Dempsey, Partho Neogi, Lance Haynes, Michael Schulz

1. Approval of Agenda. The Agenda was Approved.
2. Approval of Minutes from Sept 25, 2007 Meeting. The Minutes were approved.
3. Agenda of October 18, 2007 AC Meeting. The agenda was approved.
4. Bylaws / Collected Rules and Regulations Update
 - a. Meeting with UM Legal was held October 1, 2007.
 - b. 20 Signatures need to be obtained before a Special General Faculty meeting can be called to discuss the proposed Faculty Bylaws. We plan to obtain the 20 signatures by Monday.
 - c. Special General Faculty Meeting. The plan is to have the Chancellor and Academic Council President call a Special General Faculty meeting on Monday October 15, with the meeting to be held on Monday October 22. The proposed Faculty Bylaws will be discussed at that meeting. Doug Carroll will give a brief presentation at the meeting describing the changes in the Faculty Bylaws.
 - d. Membership of General Faculty. Membership of the General Faculty is anyone who full time and holds the rank of Instructor or above, and all members are allow to vote on the issue of adopting the proposed Faculty Bylaws. However, there are so many different titles on campus, it is not a trivial issue to determine who holds a rank of instructor or above and is eligible to vote. The RP&A committee went through the list of titles and made decisions of which titles are members of the General Faculty and which are not.

- e. Voting by General Faculty (paper or online) After some discussion we decided to do the vote by a paper ballot. There was concern that someone might make photocopies and stuff the ballot box. We decided to number the ballots so we could identify if photocopies were being made, but we will not record which numbered ballot goes to which faculty member. This should keep the vote anonymous.
 - f. Changes to remaining CRR. We will ask Bob Schwartz to make a first cut at getting the collected rules changed. Bob will send us his proposed changes, and we will review them and make comments.
 - g. Differences between Grad. Fac. bylaws and UMR bylaws. One difference was that according to the Faculty Bylaws, the Provost presides over the graduate faculty meetings. In the Graduate Faculty Bylaws the President of the Graduate Faculty presides over the meetings. Historically, in the distant past, UMR had a graduate Dean who presided over the Graduate Faculty meetings. That position was eliminated in the early 1990s, and as the management structure changed the role was eventually assigned to the Provost.
5. Status of department chair when departments merge. The question was that “When two departments merge to form one department, does the chair position become vacant and department starts a search for a new chair, or does the administration appoint the chair.” RP&A’s interpretation of the Faculty Bylaws is that since it is a new department, the department should form a search committee and select a department chair. The administration can appoint an interim chair until the chair position is filled.
6. New Funds Committee. The Provost is in the process of forming a new committee to evaluate requests for new funding. [***Kurt said he had a charge for this committee, but I missed what it was – it would be nice to include it.***] The discussion centered around how the Budgetary Affairs committee would be involved. Should it make separate recommendations or be a part of the committee formed by the Provost.
7. Distribution list for AC minutes. This item was skipped due to time constraints.

8. Conflict of Interest Committee. We voted to propose creating this as a new standing committee that reports to the Faculty Senate. The committee will be responsible for monitoring research contracts where participating faculty have a stake in the results. The committee would consider legal, financial and ethical conflict of interest. A question arose as to whether the committee would need a budget – we decided that no budget was required.
9. Outstanding Referrals to Faculty Standing Committees
 - a. Attendance Policy (AF&S, Student Affairs). AF&S is currently working with the committee that proposed the policy. They are requesting that two paragraphs be inserted into the policy. Student Affairs is waiting until AF&S completes their review before working on it.
 - b. IT “User’s Bill of Rights” (ITCC). ITCC has completed the proposed “Bill of Rights” and has sent it to UM Legal.
 - c. Monitor progress of new P&T procedures (Tenure). We will use the new process this year. The Provost will discuss it at the next Academic Council meeting.
 - d. Faculty Leave Policy (Personnel). Human Resources sent a list of questions to the Personnel committee, which were discussed by the committee. The list of concerns will be taken to IFC, and we will try to have an impact on this – system level – policy.
10. Outstanding Issues with Administration.
 - a. Campus Promotion and Tenure Policy. The Provost will address this at the next Academic Council meeting. We will use the new policy this year.
 - b. Change in Pre-Requisite Policy
 - i. AC Approved 2/15/07
 - ii. As of 6/7/07 Implementation was “pending”. This has been implemented.
11. Populating Standing and Judicial Committees. The committees have been populated for this year.

12. Posting of Student Teaching Evaluation. This is part of Senate Bill 389. There was discussion of how the bill will be implemented, i.e. the policy being developed.
13. Membership of AC list. We will check and make sure departments have the correct number of representatives.
14. New Business. None.
15. Adjourn.