

JSCC Faculty Council Meeting Minutes—January 13th, 2010

For Mechel Camp who could not attend the meeting, Vice-Chair Stacey Dunevant, convened the Wednesday, January 13th, 2010 Faculty Council meeting at 2:10 p.m. in the McWherter Center conference room.

Present: Mark Walls, Claude Bailey, Stacy Dunevant, Roger James, Carol Norman, Nell Senter, John Koons, Kim White, Donna Johnsey, Steve Cornelison, Deron Hines, Amy Wake, Jayne Lowery, Gerald Graddy, and guests Anna Harrington, Kim Warren-Cox, Pam Xanthopoulos, Jerry Gilbert.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approval of Minutes

Motion:

A motion to approve the December Council meeting minutes through an e-vote was made, seconded, discussed and approved.

The minutes were subsequently approved then distributed to faculty January 20th, 2010.

2. Committee Reports

- A. Stacy Dunevant reported on the most recent President's Cabinet meeting. She explained that the issues raised in that meeting had been covered in the January in-service meetings.
- B. The Council By-laws Revision Subcommittee reported on its January 20th faculty-wide meeting to review recommended revisions to the Council by-laws. The meeting was attended by fewer than the required quota for voting purposes. Nevertheless, some important concerns were discussed that would be considered by the Faculty Council and represented in a new proposed draft to be sent to the entire faculty for an e-vote. The Council discussed plans to enable this e-vote on the bylaws, with Council representatives primarily encouraging responses from their constituents. A deadline for faculty responses, January 22nd, was agreed upon.
- C. A question was posed about whether the Faculty Evaluation Committee had met or would be meeting.

3. Late Class Registration Date

Concern was expressed over student and course difficulties created by the January 21st deadline for late registration at JSCC. Students adding classes as late as the 21st would miss at least three Tuesday/Thursday class meetings and very likely a fourth if they transacted their registration on the 21st and then attended class for the first time the following Tuesday, the 26th. It was emphasized that missing two weeks of class did not enable the success and welfare of students. Some on the Council called for an examination of course performance statistics for students adding classes as late as this enrollment policy permits. One representative who had inquired about the late course registration policy was told that “we must work with the [TBR] common calendar.” Another suggested, then, that perhaps this was, or should be, a TBR common difficulty. Another comment was that when students begin classes a week and a half to two weeks late, there should be a clear understanding that they are entering the course under duress and at-risk.

Motion:

A motion was made, seconded, discussed, and approved to seek and track data on the number of late registrants and on their performance in classes.

4. AAUP's Relationship to the Faculty Council

Whether JSCC's chapter of the AAUP should be able to address the Council or have a place on the Council agenda was questioned. In discussion, it was noted that the issue should be framed differently, that the matter was broader than just the AAUP's place on the agenda or its inclusion in discussions. Instead, it was noted, the issue should be how visiting organizations or persons can be recognized in the Council and given opportunities to address it.

A more specific objection expressed was that Council members who also are AAUP members might have conflicts of interest about issues both the AAUP and the Council are considering. At this point, Mark Walls, Council Secretary, had to leave for an appointment. Nell Senter continued to take notes for the minutes and represented the following perspectives about this issue:

Regarding the “conflict of interest” issue for any member of the Faculty Council who is also a member of AAUP, other Council members noted that most individuals on Faculty Council have membership in other off-campus organizations, including AAUP, various political parties and religious and business organizations. It was pointed out that members are obligated to vote in a way that represents the faculty they represent, whatever their individual viewpoints or memberships in other organizations. Several individuals noted times when they have voted in a way that represents the viewpoint of the faculty they represent rather than their own personal viewpoint. Other members pointed out that there is sometimes an overlap in topics of interest to the Council and to AAUP and that it is appropriate occasionally to invite or allow presenters at Council meetings on topics of mutual interest.

Not all members of the Council agree on matters of interest to the Council and that is healthy, noted one member.

Following discussion regarding the absence of the Council Chair and the importance of the issue under review, the following motion was made, seconded and approved:

Motion:

Council tables discussion of the issue regarding AAUP’s presence and participation at Council meetings until the February meeting of the Council.

In follow-up discussion, it was suggested that Council consider formalizing the basis for non-member faculty to speak in a Council meeting. Using a comparison to School Board meetings, it was noted that it might be helpful to require that non-member faculty be placed on the Council meeting agenda prior to speaking or presenting at a Council meeting. Guest speakers, it was noted, can take up time needed for Council business and monthly meetings do not provide unlimited time to conduct Council business. Noting the of absence of language in the By-Laws of the Constitution of the Faculty Council regarding guest speakers, it was suggested that Council consider amending the By-Laws to require that guest speakers first request being placed on the agenda of the meeting at which they wish to speak.

Following this discussion, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved. Council Vice-Chair Stacey Dunevant adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Mark Walls, Secretary	_____
Nell Senter, Acting Secretary	_____
Stacey Dunevant, Vice Chair	_____
Mechel Camp, Chair	_____