

Marquette University Faculty Council
Minutes of the November 6, 2008 meeting

Present: Ed Fallone (Chair), Michael Duffey, Ana Garner, Lisa Hanson, John Jentz, Michelle Mynlieff, Maureen O'Brien, Julie O'Keefe, Scott Reid, Elise Sampson, Sid Syam

Guests: Janet Gottfried, Neil Wacker, Georgia McRae

1. Remodeling of Varsity Theatre

Chairperson Ed Fallone welcomed the guests, and opened the discussion of the status of remodeling the Varsity Theater. Janet Gottfried brought the council up to speed, stating that the basement had been remodeled, and the main level was being addressed next. Currently this level has 850 seats of 33" width, each with a tablet arm. Under the new codes, the required seat widths are 36" w/o tablet arms, 43" with, and therefore placing tablet arms on every seat would reduce capacity. Placing tablet arms on every other seat in every row would give 275 tablet arms, sufficient for the largest exams expected to be held in that venue. However, Neil Wacker noted that the reduction in capacity compared with no tablet arms at all was viewed as a negative by the AMU, who anticipated use of the venue for concerts, orientation, and other large events. Discussion ensued regarding concerns of the faculty over proctoring exams spread over multiple rooms. Responding to a query from the Chair, Ms. Gottfried state that the seats needed to be ordered by January 2009, and thus a decision made by then. She invited the council to appoint a representative to the committee, and John Jentz volunteered for this post. The guests then departed with the thanks of the committee.

2. Approval of Minutes from October meeting

With minor corrections, the minutes from the October meeting were approved.

3. Old Business

Summary of Oct. 20th Academic Senate meeting (EF)

The chair summarized the contribution of the council to the academic senate meeting, where 2 motions (see attached) were brought forward. The Subcommittee on Equity (SOE) motion made the request that salary information be broken out by unit to better show any gender differences, and that it be compared with institutions other than UW-Madison. The Senate agreed to do this, with some discretion on their part. It was noted that Lisa Hanson will attend a meeting with the Provost and Chair on salary issues. The Academic Senate will ask the Provost to clarify a plan for getting salaries to the 60th percentile (AAUP) mark.

4. New Business

MOCES system and online evaluations

The chair noted that in response to the installation of the MOCES evaluation system a task force on student evaluations was being developed, and the faculty council needed two appointees to this committee. Issues regarding online evaluations were

discussed, including the early window at which the evaluations open, and the potential low response rate. Michelle and Julie agreed to serve on this committee.

Grading Deadlines

The chair distributed a memo dated October 2nd, 2008 that was sent by him to the Academic Senate concerning grade deadlines – this will be discussed at the next meeting of the Senate. In February, the Senate had referred this issue to the Board of Undergraduate Studies, which, the chair noted, is not set up to debate or discuss issues. The chair emphasized the need to prompt the Senate to make a decision on this issue, and thanked Michelle for editing the October 2nd memo.

Publicizing the Council's Activities

Sid Syam brought forward the idea of increasing recognition of the committee's activities, via an annual report disseminated widely and greater publicity. The chair suggested that a mid-year (interim) report be generated, and the council minutes posted on the website.

The meeting concluded at 4:35 p.m. Minutes submitted by Scott Reid, Secretary.