

**FACULTY SENATE
MEETING #7**

**To: All Faculty
From: Timothy Schibik
Date: 9 February 1996
Subject: Faculty Senate Meeting #7**

**Friday, 16 February 1996
UC 308
3:00 - 4:30pm**

**AGENDA
FACULTY SENATE MEETING #7**

- 1. Approval of Minutes Meeting #6**
- 2. Report from President Hoops**
- 3. Report from Vice President Reid**
- 4. Old Business**

Curricular Committee Discussions

- 5. New Business**

**Faculty Load - Preliminary Discussions
42 Hour Upper Level Course Requirement**

- 6. Announcements**

Spring Meeting Schedule -- 3/15, 4/12, 4/19, and 4/26.

- 7. Adjournment**

Members present: T. Schibik, Chairman, J. Bandoli, J. Barnett, C. Cooper (for M. O'Grady), S. Hoeness-Krupsaw, L. Matheson, L. Musgrove, R. Reid (ex-officio), J. Rhim (for W. Jermakowicz), H. Sands (for M. Graham), D. Westhuis (J. Davis-Brezette), S. Wolfe

Guests present: L. Goss, M. Neimeier, T. Pickering

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chairman T. Schibik.
2. The minutes of session 6 were approved as amended.
3. **Report from President Hoops**
 - A. President Hoops was unable to attend.
4. **Report from Vice President Reid**
 - A. The bonding authorization for the new classroom building at USI has been moved forward by the State Legislature.
 - B. T. Schibik, J. Cain, C. Price, and R. Reid will present a forum on Wednesday, February 21, 1996, at 3:00 p.m. in HP 1006 to report on the themes presented at the American Association for Higher Education Meeting which they attended.
 - C. Budget hearings have begun. The hearings for University Relations, Academic Affairs, and Business Affairs were held February 13. On February 20, Student Affairs and Athletics will present their budgets. On March 18, the School of Business is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., the School of Nursing and Health Professions at 10:00 a.m., and the School of Science and Engineering Technology at 11:00 a.m. On March 19, the School of Liberal Arts is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. and the School of Education and Human Services is scheduled for 11:00 a.m.
5. **Old Business**
 - A. M. Neimeier, who has been an ex-officio member of the Curricular Committee for some time, presented information on the proceedings of the Committee.
 1. Frequently the Committee is composed of faculty who are new to the University and who lack an understanding of the functions and the authority of the Committee.
 2. The Committee spends the majority of its time reviewing and approving new and revised course and program petitions, which is only one of six functions outlined in the Handbook. Often the review consists of examining the petitions for completeness.
 3. Petitions that have been rigorously reviewed at the Department and School levels tend to be more complete which allow the Committee more time to devote to curricular issues of University wide impact.
 4. Because of the number of petitions the Committee receives, the Committee meets weekly or biweekly throughout the academic year. The Committee has little time to devote to its remaining functions.
 5. The Committee also devotes considerable time to the resolution of conflicts arising from course offerings in different departments. The Curricular Committee needs to oversee the overlap of courses with similar course content that are offered in several different departments, e.g. statistics courses.
 6. Committee members need to be diligent about taking curricular issues raised in the Committee back to their respective Schools and faculty for feedback and input.

7. Courses that impact on teachers education programs are reviewed by the specialists in teacher education, usually before submission to the Curricular Committee.
8. The UCC Council is an extension of the Curricular Committee and has not usurped the Committees functions.
 - a. The Curricular Committee reviews courses for their impact on other courses in other departments of the University.
 - b. The UCC Council reviews courses for their potential to fulfill core categories.
9. The Committee could change its focus to resolving conflicts and problems after the courses were approved rather than addressing problems in the course petitions.
- B. Chairman T. Schibik and Vice President Reid will meet with the current chair of the Curricular Committee to discuss recommendations for changes to Committee procedures and functions.

6. **New Business**

- A. Vice President Reid has recommended and the Curricular Committee has approved a 42 hour upper level course requirement for a meaningful and quality baccalaureate degree. The requirement is in effect beginning with fall, 1996. He asked for the support of the Senate.
 1. The last NCA accreditation review team recommended an increase in the number of required upper level course hours.
 2. In a random sample of recent USI graduates, a number of students did not have a reasonable (38 hours - 44 hours) number of upper division course hours. Some majors have as few as 27 hours of required 300-400 level courses.
 3. The Deans' Council has discussed the requirement. It is the norm for 1/3 of course work toward a baccalaureate degree be composed of upper level courses. The School of Business, the School Education and Human Services, and the School of Nursing and Health Professions already have such a requirement in place.
 4. J. Bandoli asked if there is consensus at the University as to what constitutes a 300 or 400 level course. Dr. Reid stated that the course sequencing rules define course level. Some disciplines require a survey or introductory course before enrollment in an upper division course and others do not.
 5. H. Sands moved to adopt the requirement and S. Wolfe seconded.
 - a. L. Musgrove suggested that departments need time to discuss the impact of this requirement on their courses.
 - b. Courses will need to be evaluated for course content to be sure that the assigned number accurately reflects the level of the course. The Curricular Committee will renumber courses if justification is shown.
 - c. Some disciplines have so many required 100 and 200 level courses that when added to the UCC and the 42 hour upper level requirement, there are few elective opportunities.
 6. H. Sands withdrew the motion to adopt the requirement. Action will be delayed until schools and departments have an opportunity for discussion.
- B. A preliminary discussion on faculty load across the University was held.
 1. With changes in educational delivery systems and technology, should there be changes in faculty load determination?
 - a. Distance education and other technological changes may require different credit formulations for faculty load.
 - b. L. Goss commented that release time for technological changes has been tried and was not successful.
 2. According to Vice President Reid, USI is known as a teaching institution with a commitment to a 12 hours teaching load. There is flexibility in how the 12 hours are derived, for example, in such areas as laboratory hours, studio hours, clinical hours, independent study, graduate classes.

3. S. Wolfe commented that there is a perception among faculty that there is inequity in faculty load and discrepancies in equipment support both inter-school and intra-school.
 - a. J. Bandoli commented that after a discussion with his Dean he understands that the resources necessary to permit reassigned time vary from school to school and that deans need the flexibility to assign teaching loads for the benefit of their schools.
 - b. Since faculty load, reassigned time, and equipment support impact promotion and tenure opportunities, there must be agreement during promotion and tenure deliberations to take into account these considerations.
 - c. Dr. Reid responded that the Promotions Committee is aware and alert to the load equity considerations and is diligent in its deliberations.
 - d. Any discussion of load equity requires the inclusion of those individuals with budgetary authority.
4. L. Goss commented that there is increased pressure from student services for demands on faculty time without a corresponding increase in compensation. These demands must be a consideration for promotion.
7. **Announcements**
 - A. The spring faculty meeting is tentatively scheduled from Wednesday, April 17. The April meetings will consider committee reports.
8. **Adjournment**
 - A. The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Matheson

Linda Matheson, Secretary