North Dakota Council of College Faculties
IVN meeting
March 11, 2008

Members Present: Shirley Wilson (BSC), LoAnn Nelson (LRSC), James Wright (BSC), Mike Porter (MSU-B), Tom Barnhart (NDSU), Patti Heisler (MaSU), Lisa Borden-King (MiSU), Milan Christianson (NDSCS), Ann Smith (NDSCS), Kevin Gyolai (NDSCS), Don Poochigian (UND), Ernst Pijning (MiSU), Harlene Hatterman-Valenti (NDSU), Jon Jackson (UND), James Crawford (VCSU)

Members Absent: Don Poochigian (UND), Leslie Bieber (WSC), Fernando Quijano (DSU)

Guests: Mike Hillman

Minutes: Jim Wright moved to approve, Mike Porter seconded. Minutes approved.

Announcements: No announcements

AAC Report: Tom Barnhart filled in for Harlene this month, but Mike Hillman will make the report. AAC decided to form two new groups -- the Dual credit Task Force and the Degree Audit Committee. Dual credit has been in place for ten years; however, changes in demographics are causing friction among institutions. The Task Force has representatives from all institutions. The Task Force will focus on defining geographic service areas, and discussing student tuition incentives. Currently, high schools get to count dual credit in terms of state funding, but higher education needs some incentives as well. We are finding that all institutions have different tuition rates and high school principals are shopping around to save small amounts in tuition dollars. The Degree Audit Committee has been formed in response to ongoing discussions with Randall Thursby regarding degree auditing within ConnectND. The committee will look at the options that are out there but there are also national products that are out there the group will look at. The PeopleSoft degree audit system may not have all the functionality we need and it may be more complex to get it working. A separate system would let us use a separate server and thus both systems could run at the same time, for instance during registration. The larger institutions will need a full time person just to keep these up and running. AAC continues to work on the criminal history checks for students in particular programs. There is a face to face meeting scheduled for April to iron out differences that remain. AAC is also beginning the process of looking at the inventory of prefixes used in the system. These have been proliferating and AAC will work to come up with a cogent way to organize those prefixes. Finally, the NDSA, as well as the UND and NDSU student associations, have suggested that we add a fall holiday to the academic calendar, which would correspond to Canadian Thanksgiving (Columbus day).

SBHE Report: Tom Barnhart: The SBHE has been busy hiring presidents. They have also been focused on the emergency notification system, which will use cell phones to notify faculty and students in the event of an emergency on campus. The initial
discussion was that students could opt out but faculty could not. Tom attended the interim legislative council meeting. It appears that there is a movement to reassess the missions of the institutions. They also had asked for presentations on faculty workload. A variety of provosts and academic officials presented how they assign work load and evaluate progress. UND uses a software system to award merit. The software uses different percentages for teaching, service, and research. Many legislators are still confused over what we actually do when we are not in class. There is an ongoing effort to reassemble the Roundtable, which gave institutions the flexibility to pursue individual approaches to function well. In regards to the Compensation Report, Patti deserves significant praise for her efforts. The overall goal is to get faculty and staff salaries to a regional average. The final recommendation was a 6.5% increase in each year of the biennium and continued 100 funding with no reduction in quality or component of the health care program. All of the presidents say that faculty salaries are top on their list of things to deal with. The proposal will go to them first and then Tom will present it at the Board meeting in Bottineau in April. Patti asked if the higher education interim committee will look at the HERI survey data. Discussion followed regarding legislators perception of the “inefficiency” of higher education, despite evidence that we are the most efficient system in the country. Performance funding may be coming tied to graduation rates.

**Old Business:** Jon won the election for SBHE representative. He will be the representative for next year. UND, NDSU, Bottineau, MSU, and LRSC faculty senates have approved the change in bylaws. The other campuses will be voting in the next couple of weeks.

**Statewide Professor of the Year/Semester:** We discussed the idea of creating an award program to recognize faculty at the statewide level. This would also help with the perception of the “job” of faculty. The general consensus seemed to indicate that we would support the idea of highlighting a faculty member or CCF member every month or so, moving from institution to institution. This would get the point across without introducing competition between institutions. We also discussed perhaps using the awards already given by individual institutions more visible.

**Compensation Report:** The final draft is being finished. Patti will be asked to present to legislature and Tom will present to the SBHE. Patti would suggest meeting with individual legislators. Where did the retirement benefit go? Patti indicated that they thought the extra two percent in salary would help make up for that. James indicated that one could argue that the 6.5% increase won’t be sustainable, so that doesn’t make sense. Secondly, James argued that the retirement benefit for faculty with seniority is not a valid argument to reduce overall raises. Shirley stated that we need to keep thinking about how to make our case so we actually get the 6.5%. We will need to continue to think about this.

**Proof of Worthiness:** We discussed a variety of ideas and decided that the committee will come up with a proposal for what faculty should be included and what form the information should take (brochure, etc).
Meeting with the SBHE: April 3 or the date in June are our two choices. Shirley will send an email regarding schedule.

Elections: We have four offices that will need nominations between now and our April 8th meeting. Our May meeting is May 6th during finals week and voting will have to happen by then.

Patti moved to adjourn and Jim seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 11:15.