Faculty Meeting Notes
May 5, 2010
Kit Otto, Faculty Observer

There were several interesting discussions at the May meeting. One faculty member is emerging as the Asker of the Question, “Who represents us?” (e.g., “How will the faculty influence decisions [on the budget/pay increases] that will likely be made during the summer?”) Asking a question like this has its own impact. Elliott Gruner, on behalf of the AAUP, is very persistent on this issue.

In addition, there was discussion about the role of the faculty observer to the University board of trustees. Since most issues are settled by the time they are added to the agenda of the board of trustees meeting, would it be more effective to have faculty members observe key university committee meetings where discussion and work is actually being done? Scott Coykendall (upcoming faculty speaker) reported that next year’s steering committee will look closely at the faculty representatives and observers to the USNH BOT and its committees.

The academic affairs committee returned with a revised motion about early grade evaluation at six weeks. Their previous effort had been universal (a motion to give 6-week grade reports to all students) and failed; their revised motion to give early grade evaluation to first-year and sophomore students passed with some nays.

Another academic affairs motion, to allow a maximum of 90 credits from regionally accredited degree-granting institutions toward PSU baccalaureate degrees, passed unanimously. The motion simplifies the current transfer credits policy and is somewhat more generous.

There were a couple of other curricular changes, and the Honors Council presented a proposal for a new Honors Program as a discussion item. The faculty meeting adjourned and was followed by the announcement of the Distinguished Teaching Awards.