Faculty Meeting Notes
April 6, 2011 Meeting
Kit Otto, Faculty Observer

Faculty SOS Scholarship Established
The faculty, in consideration of the scholarship fundraising done by the Operating Staff and the PAT’s, has established the “Supporting Our Students (S-O-S) Faculty Scholarship Fund.” They began their fundraising with a raffle held during this meeting for a $100 Common Man gift certificate.

Raffle tickets sold briskly. I heard that a couple of people had thrown in $100, and the total raised came to a little over $600. Scott Coykendall, faculty speaker, did a persuasive job of explaining how this scholarship effort had come about, and stated that the memo of understanding "had been signed just a couple of hours ago.” During discussion, one faculty member got up and recounted her own story, that she would have ended up as an administrative assistant (graduating from a local community college) without the financial help she received to attend college. Therefore, she announced, she had written a check for $1,000. She presented the check to Pres. Steen on the spot, to a round of applause and a comment from the group, “Well, that ups the ante!”

The faculty then approved the motion to set up a 5-person fundraising committee. The faculty comments in discussion about the scholarship, and about this motion, showed a spirit of generosity and an acknowledgment of the students' need.

Liz Ahl won the raffle for the $100 CMAN gift certificate.

Other Motions
A motion to give the faculty speaker a one-course release during his year as speaker was discussed. The vote was so close it required a count of hands. It was defeated 31-29.

A motion from the faculty welfare committee to select two faculty members to service as SPPC reps (instead of one member currently) was discussed and returned to the faculty welfare committee for further clarification. Again a show of hands was needed.

The general education committee had several “resolutions” that they reported to the faculty, including potential changes/enhancements to the student course evaluation process and other items that should help set the stage for a (potential) review of the general education program sometime in the future.

Jeremiah Duncan was on the agenda at the end of the meeting to talk about "recycle mania" if there was time. It was 5:00, but he promised his presentation was only about 5 minutes, so the faculty said, "5 minutes-go for it." The faculty was enthusiastic. The operating staff has subsequently seen Jeremiah’s short, compelling presentation that ends with a challenge to "clean up the town", the "PSU Pickupapalooza”.

The regular meeting adjourned at 5:30 and was followed by an additional “cost-cutting” brainstorming session for marathon attendees.