Faculty Meeting Notes
May 5, 2011 meeting
Kit Otto, Faculty Observer

The May meeting began, with an impassioned exhortation from Elliott Gruner (as usual, under the guise of a question about the President’s Report), urging the faculty to consider organizing (unionizing): “Our university is becoming more pyramidal, more top-down…. We may lose the right to organize very soon…. [Then, to SJS:] Do you have a reaction to that?” Sara Jayne, poised under pressure, responded by noting that a webpage on the budget process was being set up, that PSU wouldn’t know the outcome of the state budget negotiations until June, and that she would do her best to make sure there was regular communication with faculty and staff.

Note: while Gruner was making his comments, a photocopied generic union “authorization card” (from State of NH, Public Employee Labor Relations Board) was being distributed with “SEA_NH/SEIU Local 1984” as the name of the labor organization. I don’t know what happened to these, or if anyone signed them.

Noteworthy
From the Academic Affairs Committee, brought by Eric Hoffman: To amend the Academic Integrity Policy, inserting a new paragraph on “unintentional violations”. Several faculty members from the Academic Affairs committee have noted that recently a number of students have been brought under our current policy for hearings with the Academic Integrity Panel for violations that were largely unintentional. Discussion and questions mainly focused on the “unintentional and intentional” part of the summary. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

Jeremiah Duncan urged that the faculty approve a resolution regarding litter and Spring Fling. Duncan proposed that if there were significant amounts of litter left in town after Spring Fling, that the 2012 event should be canceled. Although the threats to Spring Fling were removed with friendly amendments, the resolution was ultimately defeated.

Faculty SSPC Representatives increased to two: A motion was approved to select two (formerly, one) faculty members to serve as representatives to the USNH System Personnel Policy Council meetings, one member to serve as a voting member, the second member to serve as an alternate.

Distinguished Teaching Awards
A unique moment: The faculty and others in the room last May will not forget that the distinguished adjunct, Lisa Travis, from the Music, Theatre, and Dance department, on accepting her award, cajoled everyone in the room into an impromptu dance. All stood around the edge of the room, thought of a motion that represented their mothers, and themselves, and blended them together. Then each person, one after the other, did their “dance” while the Mixed Emotions (female acapella group) provided the accompaniment.

Distinguished Graduate Teaching Award: Leo Sandy, Counselor Education and School School Psychology Department/College of Graduate Studies.

Distinguished Teaching Award: Irene Cucina, the Health and Human Performance Department and the Office of Teacher Certification.

The faculty meeting minutes for May 2011 can be found in all their gory detail at the link http://www.plymouth.edu/committee/faculty/faculty-agendas-minutes/faculty-meeting-minutes/