

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes January 22, 2014

Rap Session 3:30 PM

The new Provost, Dr. James Henderson, introduced himself and addressed questions from those present.

Senate Meeting called to order at 4:00 PM

George Wooddell moved and Mary Neiheisel seconded that the minutes of the November meeting be approved. The motion passed. Kay Reidel moved that the minutes of the December special meeting be approved. The motion was seconded and passed.

Executive Officer report:

Prof. McDonald reported that Dr. Clark disagreed with one faculty senate amendment to the proposed merit raise plan but agreed to move forward with the proposal as amended by the faculty senate, however the council of deans has problems with the proposal as amended. Dr. Clark will arrange meetings between the faculty senate committee and the council of deans to resolve the concerns. Dr. McDonald will appoint additional representatives to the faculty senate committee from colleges not currently represented on the ad hoc merit raise proposal committee. He suggested that under new business the senate form a new committee to look at the rubric evaluation process on an ongoing basis.

Additionally, Prof. McDonald reported that Dean Farmer-Kaiser wants some form of formal relationship between the graduate council and the faculty senate. The graduate council also wants a role in approving and reviewing graduate programs. The faculty senate has input on reviewing graduate programs through nominating members for the review committee but the graduate council does not currently have any direct means of input.

Finally, Dr. McDonald suggested that the senate consider commending the President for providing a Christmas bonus.

Reports of Senate Committees:

Committee on Committees: The committee presented a ballot with Monica Tauzin as nominee for Faculty Advisory Committee Alternate. Monica Tauzin was elected unanimously.

Ways and Means: no report

Academic Planning and Development: no report

Governmental Concerns: Dr. Slater reported that the committee will explore the Governor's WISE initiative.

Faculty Advisory Council Representative: Dr. Yarborough stated that the next meeting of FAC will be in February.

Ad Hoc Committee on Proposed Merit Raise Procedure: no report

Ad Hoc Committee on Status of Underrepresented Faculty Groups: written report submitted

Ad Hoc Committee on Status of Women: written report submitted

Reports of University Committees:

Curriculum: the committee met and approved new courses and course changes

Faculty Grievance: no report

Faculty Benefits and Welfare: no report

Library: no report

Academic Affairs and Standards: no report, Suzanne Ward will resume chairmanship

Parking and Planning: no report

Student Evaluation of Instruction: no report

Distance Learning Leadership Council: no report

Strategic Program Review: no report

Unfinished Business:

Two motions for amendments to the constitution had been presented by the Ways and Means Committee at the November meeting. The motion to amend the constitution to include the strategic program review committee as a University committee for which the Faculty Senate provides nominees was discussed. A question about provision for an inability to find 2 nominees was raised. This issue applies to nominations for all committees since there is no provision for that in the constitution. There was further discussion regarding the “faculty unit” terminology. George Woodell called the question and the vote was yea. The original motion was voted on and passed.

The second motion from the Ways and Means committee, regarding appointment of a senate webmaster was then discussed. An amendment to the motion was proposed that would remove the phrase “need not be a senator” and substitute “and if not already a senator will become an ex-officio member of the senate”. The motion as amended passed unanimously.

Another item of old business, discussion of the summer pay proposal presented by G.H. Massiha at the November meeting, was deferred to a future meeting.

New Business:

George Woodell moved and Leslie Bary seconded that “the senate establish an Ad Hoc committee to monitor the merit pay system in its entirety on a yearly basis”. The motion passed.

George Woodell moved and Mary Neiheisel seconded that “the appropriate committee as determined by the executive officer should investigate proposals for a relationship between the senate and the graduate council”. The motion passed. The executive officer will appoint an Ad Hoc committee to work with the graduate council on this.

Leslie Bary moved that “the faculty senate thank the president for the Christmas bonus”. The motion was seconded and passed.

Dr. Turner raised a question about finding student members for committees which are supposed to have student representation.

The Faculty Senate meeting next month will be held on February 26 in Wharton 101.

Meeting adjourned at 5:02pm.

Kathleen Knierim
Secretary