

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

19 October 2018

Senators present: Chuck Conaway, Kenny Purcell, Brandon Field, Ken Shemroske, Charlotte Connerton, Rex Strange, Al Holen, Brooke Mathna, Mary Doerner, Rich Bennett, Wes Durham, Oana Popescu-Sandu, Peter Cashel-Cordo.

Other attendees: Michael Dixon, David Bower, Jeff Seyler, Jack Smothers, Shelly Blunt, Julie St. Clair, Nick LaRowe, Thomas Longwell, Peter Whiting, Becca Neel, Andrea Wright, Marna Hostetler

- Meeting called to order 2:32 pm.
- Provost Search Committee was invited to the meeting: David Bower, chair. Everyone on the committee is interested in finding the right person to recommend to Dr. Rochon. Main issue is that they be involved with the faculty in a very close way.
 - Nine members of the committee with faculty rank out of 19 total members.
 - The Senate is currently reviewing a charge about the procedure by which faculty representatives on future committees will be chosen. Some member(s) of the Senate would have preferred to elect the faculty representatives (rather than the selection of faculty members by the deans and then appointment by the President) to be more in line with shared governance.
 - David sees as the most important aspect that the faculty voice is heard, and the Faculty Senate Chair will have an opportunity to meet individually with them.
 - The concern was expressed that the next Provost needs to be strong into shared governance, and maintain strong lines of communication between administration and faculty.
 - More than just communication, also consistency. There was more Faculty Senate input on the Presidential Search committee members than there has been on this Search.
 - Presidential Search was very much not transparent. Still bitterness among faculty.
 - Qualities desired in a Provost: shared governance, transparency, but also...
 - Growth goal to 15,000 students by 2025. How do the candidates perceive this goal? Do they have realistic plans? What resources would be put into programs?
 - Someone who understands (with experiential knowledge) a 4-4 teaching load, the type of campus that we have.
 - Understands what USI is good at and will advocate for that, even to the state.
 - If Faculty Senators have questions that we would like the committee to ask, send them.
 - Someone with a clear message about what the institution is, and then follows through.
 - The committee considers that a successful candidate for Provost would have had to come up through the ranks of tenure and promotion.
- Minutes from last meeting approved unanimously with two abstentions.
- Chair's Report:
 - December 3, 4, 5, and 6 are the days reserved for the Provost's finalists to visit campus.

- OPRA has sent a preliminary version of the Blackboard Dashboard which presents SET results to the faculty who participated in the Summer III testing group. The faculty are currently reviewing the dashboard drafts and were sent a survey to provide basic feedback to OPRA.
 - Jeanne McAlister will be setting up a couple of focus groups in November for those who participated in the testing group. I've asked her to either include us in the focus group or come to Senate and review the Dashboard with us.
 - Chuck has looked at the Blackboard Dashboard and thinks it needs some work. It currently doesn't have any sort of numbers, only stacked response bar graphs and it doesn't have any comparisons to anything. He thinks OPRA can make more information available, but we need to think about what we'd like to see on the dashboard.
- Election/Appointments
 - Need a Faculty Senate representative for the CETL Advisory Board. Can be Faculty Senator or a member of one of the Faculty Senate subcommittees. Committee meets twice per semester.
 - Also need a representative for the New Program Review Board. Rex Strange has volunteered for that two year appointment, and will make a recommendation as to whether a member from the Curriculum Committee should also be included on this board.
 - Some other positions are needed, Chuck has an email out.
- Economic Benefits committee has determined that we do not need AAUP data purchased.
- The By-Laws that we have amended in previous charges have been forwarded to the Provost's office and should appear amended by July 1, 2019.
- Charge to change the election deadline is no longer needed because Pott College will be changing the schedule of elections. Charge 2018.18 is therefore closed.
- Provost's Report, Michael Dixon:
 - Commission of Higher Education meeting last week: budget requests from Purdue, Ball State, and Vincennes were made. Next Commission meeting will be Thursday the 8th of November will be in the Griffin Center.
 - Academic Program review progress: Several Chairs volunteered to look at the procedures and schedule by which the program review process is done.
 - This was a result of a report that the Assessment Committee made to Faculty Senate in 2016 that made most of these recommendations that they are trying to implement now.
 - Ideally, they would like to conduct some program reviews this spring and there have been a number of programs that have volunteered.
- Counselling Center report: Nick LaRowe, Intrim Dean of Students, and Thomas Longwell
 - Increasing caseload of students. Working on a faculty initiative that can help faculty identify students who need to be referred to the Dean of Students office or the Counselling Center and help them ourselves.

- Workshops planned for spring faculty meeting to help faculty identify what is the difference between normative human emotion and someone who needs to be brought to the Counselling Center.
- Open access publication charge: Peter and Becca from the Library
 - Faculty are increasingly publishing in Open Access Journals. Would like the Provost's Office to allow current funds allocated to yearly Faculty Development Travel to be applied to article processing charges for open access journals.
 - Amendment suggested:
 - We are not requesting a new line funding for OA publishing. Rather we simply request that the Provost Office allow funds to be applied to APCS (article processing charges) in reputable Open Access publications at the request of the faculty member. One source of these funds might be those currently allocated to yearly Faculty Development Travel, but other sources, such as internal awards and grants from the University, might also be made available.
 - The discussion over reputability and the procedures and mechanisms for ensuring reputability is important.
 - This might require a discussion with the FASTRC committee regarding award language.
 - Charge unanimously approved.
- Charge regarding fee waiver for spouses and dependent children.
 - Currently only 124 hours allowed to be applied to the fee waiver for spouses and dependent children. This is not enough for some programs, such as the engineering, which requires 128 hours.
 - It was pointed out that in addition to the engineering programs, students in the accounting programs require 150 hours to sit for the CPA exam. Other programs were mentioned. Amendment suggested to move the cap to 180 hours because that matches the credit hour limit for Federal Aid.
 - Amended charge approved unanimously.
- Charge regarding Student Administrative Appeals committee.
 - Portion of the charge that requested a faculty member as an additional member of the committee, however this would require them to work over the summer, uncompensated. This part was not supported.
 - The other portion of the charge requests that the decisions be returned to the faculty member was unanimously approved.
 - It also seemed that the admission issue of an unprepared student was more of an issue for graduate council. The suggestion was made that this instance be brought to Graduate Council.
- Meeting adjourned: 4:40pm.