

MINUTES/FACULTY SENATE MEETING

March 22, 2012

The Senate met on Thursday, March 22, 2012 at the Alumni House

Ralph Olliges, Faculty Senate President, Presiding

Members Present: John Aleshunas, Jef Awada, Glen Bauer, Maxine Bauermeister, Carla Colletti, Scott Jensen, Don Conway-Long, Susan Heady, J.P. Palmer-Schuyler, Andrea Rothbart, Stephanie Schroeder, Marty Smith, Eileen Solomon, Gwyneth Williams

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the March 1st Faculty Senate meeting minutes as amended. With the exception of two abstentions, all were in favor; motion carried.

Announcements

Ralph reminded everyone of the dates for the Faculty Senate meetings in April – April 5th and April 26th.

University Handbook Language

The group discussed and made amendments to the proposed University Handbook language for Department Name Changes and Similar Modifications. It is felt that the University Handbook language should be immediately clear.

Discussion took place on the Schools and Colleges section of the University Handbook and minor amendments were made. If there should be an issue with the University Handbook language, disputes would first be addressed by the Faculty Senate. The Senate may choose to refer the issue to the Faculty Assembly.

Glen and Ralph met with Julian Schuster to discuss the University Handbook language for Faculty Status for Senior Administrators. They have since e-mailed Julian asking about the definition of Associate Provost and whether or not that will be an academic position. An answer has not yet been received.

Committee Update: What constitutes a faculty member?

The committee has been working on the draft of the University Handbook language on academic administrators. Julian would like to see newly hired administrators have voting rights in the Faculty Assembly for issues that may affect them. At the last Faculty Senate meeting, the consensus was that administrators should not have voting rights in the Faculty Assembly for a number of reasons. The Senate feels that the issue should go to the Faculty Assembly for a vote.

The three proposed University Handbook language sections discussed above will be sent out prior to the April 10th Faculty Assembly so that everyone has time to read the language before the Assembly.

Should an adjunct seat be added to the Faculty Senate?

The question was asked if an adjunct seat should be added to the Faculty Senate. If an adjunct seat is added to the Faculty Senate, that individual would come from the 10 percent of adjunct faculty that serve on the Faculty Assembly. The suggestion was made to address the issue first of what constitutes a faculty member and clarify what faculty statuses are. The taskforce is still working on the document on adjunct faculty and that needs to be completed also before a decision can be made on adding an adjunct seat to the Faculty Senate. This issue was postponed until a later date.

Old Business

Ralph shared the e-mail that he sent, as President of the Faculty Senate, to David Wilson, Michael Hulsizer, and Stacy Henning. At the March 1, 2012 Faculty Senate meeting, the Senate directed Ralph to send a letter to the three individuals named above stating the Senate's position (which is in accordance with the University Handbook) on the hiring of faculty for the MA in Counseling at the South Carolina campus.

Family Leave Policy

Ralph received an e-mail asking whether or not the Faculty Parental Leave policy approved in 2007 has been added to the University Handbook. The general feeling is that the Faculty Parental Leave policy is important and should be in the University Handbook. It was also mentioned that faculty would like to have sick leave clarified as well.

A discussion followed regarding policies. The following questions were asked: 1) Who is responsible for updating the policies? 2) Who determines which policies are in the University Handbook? 3) Who has the power to change policies in the University Handbook? 4) Can policies that relate to faculty be changed without any consent/notification of the faculty? It was stated that some policies, such as tuition remission, are not listed in the University Handbook due to constant changes to the language. Some items are not in the University Handbook, but have a link posted on certain pages, such as to Human Resources, where those policies are maintained.

In discussing the University Handbook, frustration was expressed that one cannot log on to and read the University Handbook while off campus. There are times when someone may need to access the University Handbook while they are off campus (i.e., faculty on leave).

A motion was made that the Parental Leave Policy for full-time status and status-track faculty (the link that is on the Faculty Senate webpage) be added to the University Handbook. All were in favor; motion carried.

It was also mentioned that there is a difference between the grievance policy document and the document that is posted on the website. Glen will compare the two documents to see if there are major differences between them.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.