

MINUTES/FACULTY SENATE MEETING

June 28, 2012

The Senate met on Thursday, June 28, 2012 at the Alumni House

Ralph Olliges, Faculty Senate President, Presiding

Members Present: John Aleshunas, Jef Awada, Glen Bauer, Carla Colletti, Don Conway-Long, Susan Heady, Victoria McMullen, J.P. Palmer-Schuyler, Stephanie Schroeder, Marty Smith, Roy Tamashiro, Gwyneth Williams

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the April 26th Faculty Senate meeting minutes as amended. All were in favor; motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the May 1st Faculty Assembly meeting minutes as amended. With the exception of one abstention, all were in favor; motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the May 8th Faculty Assembly meeting minutes as amended. All were in favor; motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the May 10th Faculty Senate meeting minutes. All were in favor; motion carried.

Announcements

It was announced that there would be a Senate meeting on July 19th. July 19th is a transfer day as well as GCP Summer Collaboratory and many would be unable to attend on the 19th. It was determined that Monday, July 16th from 10 a.m. – noon would work better for everyone.

Ralph asked the group to be aware that the first Senate meeting of the Fall is on August 30th.

The Senate agreed to spend \$1,000 for a gift in honor of Dr. Neil George. When the Senate had an extra \$500 remaining in the budget, we decided to also apply that for books, videos, etc. to Emerson Library in honor of Dr. Neil George. The total gift was \$1,500. A plaque was also purchased and has been placed on the fourth floor of the Library stating that this is in honor of Dr. George. A duplicate plaque was purchased and given to Dr. Neil George.

Appointed Committees

Committee to Review Faculty –

School of Business & Technology Seat – David Porras will replace Debbie Psihountas for one year.

At-Large Seat – Sylvia Navia will replace Anne Geraghty-Rathert for one year.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the two replacements for CRF. All were in favor; motion carried.

Civil Rights Compliance Committee –

Adjunct faculty seat – Bud Bellomo will replace Roy Johnson who passed away. Motion was made and seconded to approve this replacement for Civil Rights. All were in favor; motion carried.

Wellness Committee –

Jenny Broeder asked to be replaced and Eric Goedereis was recommended as her replacement. Motion was made and seconded to approve this replacement for the Wellness Committee. All were in favor; motion carried.

Graduate Council –

Al Cawns will be out of the country during Fall 2012 and Janet Kourik was recommended to replace Al for Fall 2012. Motion was made and seconded to approve Janet as Al's replacement for Fall 2012. All were in favor; motion carried.

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)

About six months ago, the Faculty Senate President was asked for the names of one or two faculty members to work on different ERP projects the University is working on. This particular project is a replacement for the CARS system and is a two or more year project. ERP application combines many of the University's services together that are core to our working environment.

Al Cawns and Mike Hulsizer have been asked to represent the faculty because they both represent large departments. Al will be gone this fall to Thailand and Janet Kourik will fill in for Al. The replacement for Mike will be Glen Bauer. Meetings will be held about every other week for approximately two hours.

Al Cawns put together a draft of faculty requirements for a New Information System. This draft was shared with the Senate. It was asked that suggestions be sent to Al Cawns or Glen Bauer to be incorporated into the draft document.

Fall Institute

The topic of assessment was suggested for the Fall Institute. Also, the topic of Integrative Teaching was discussed. Integrative teaching can be interdisciplinary based or disciplinary based at a higher level. It promotes a higher level of thinking and brings together knowledge for synthesizing.

The suggestion was made to use the topic of Integrative Learning rather than Integrative Teaching. Ideally, there would be something available for all faculty. It might be appropriate to have different tracks offered. It was suggested that a speaker could speak about Integrative Learning generally and then have a specific track for the Keystone Seminars. This could possibly involve demonstrations by our own faculty.

A suggestion was made to have the speaker address the difference between interdisciplinary and integrative, to give an example and explain which category it would fall under.

It was mentioned that a grant was submitted to AACU and the outcome of the grant will be known by August. The grant is to bring in a speaker for the Keystone Seminars. Possibly, the speaker could present at the Fall Institute.

It was discussed last year whether or not we want to have a fall and spring institute and the issue was never resolved. The answer given was that whether it is this topic or another topic, it is felt that the institutes help energize faculty and is not considered a frivolous expense. A lot of benefit is seen in holding the institutes for the faculty. The festival of teaching and faculty showcases have done very well. It is also felt that the other part of the institutes (social aspect) is important for meeting new faculty. As Webster grows, it becomes more important to have an event that all of the faculty can come together. Further, The Teaching Festival concept came as a result of one Fall Institute.

The topic of Integrative Learning was endorsed by several Senators. This is something that the faculty feel strongly about and will help to energize faculty and give them ideas for the classroom.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the topic of Integrative Learning for the Fall Institute 2012. All were in favor; motion carried.

The Fall Institute Committee will be made up of the following: John Aleshunas, Jef Awada, Glen Bauer, Carla Colletti, Don Conway-Long, Scott Jensen, Victoria McMullen, Roy Tamashiro, Gwyneth Williams.

The Spring Institute Committee will be made up of the following: Mary Bevel, Juraj Bohus, Paula Hanssen, Susan Heady, J.P. Palmer-Schuyler.

Work Study Funding for Students

There was a recent incident where current work study students were in jeopardy of not being carried over into the next year. The students were told that the administration had decided to reallocate work study to freshmen instead of juniors and seniors. Administration answered that students needed to apply for work study by March. This issue has been cleared up in a particular department, but this topic was brought up to see if anyone else has encountered this problem.

There have been a number of students who have approached faculty and informed them that there were problems with their financial aid. Faculty have met with administration and were told to contact Paul Carney directly with any problems they encounter with students and financial aid. It seems that once Paul Carney has been made aware of the problems that students are encountering with their financial aid, the problem has been solved.

If faculty know of problems, ask students to come to you and explain the situation and then contact Paul Carney directly.

There is concern about the number of students that we will never hear about and therefore, cannot help. The suggestion was made to invite someone from financial aid or Paul Carney to meet with the Senate or Council of Chairs to further discuss this issue. It was determined that the Council of Chairs would be the better group and to find out if there are similar problems in other departments. The Faculty Senate President revived the Council of Chairs last year. They meet twice a semester.

Quorum

The issue of a quorum was brought up at one of the Faculty Assembly meetings. The problem is that as the faculty grows, there are full-time faculty who cannot attend the assembly due to being on leave or are at one of the foreign campuses. According to the University Handbook, one-third of the faculty assembly need to be present to conduct business. It was suggested that we deduct the average number of those who cannot attend (about 10) from the total number of faculty. This would set the quorum for each semester. Is this reasonable? It is not a huge difference, but sometimes that amount can make a difference.

The question was asked if someone is counting to see if we have a quorum at the Faculty Assembly meetings? It was stated that we do not have to count unless it is raised. It was raised at the last meeting. Currently 65 – 70 faculty need to be present for a quorum. The statement was made that they would prefer an exact number rather than an estimate. Usually when you have someone raise a question on quorum, you need to have an exact number. It probably needs to be counted once in August and once in December and announce the specific number at the beginning of the year. It would also be included in the newsletter as well.

It was decided that it would be good to craft this idea into language and get it into the University Handbook so that it is documented. The language will be drafted and brought back to the Senate for endorsement.

July Meeting

In preparation for the July Senate meeting, Ralph asked the group where we left off on the Integrative Studies issue. It was reported that CIS never approved the document. Ralph will contact Bruce Umbaugh and find out whether or not CIS has approved the document.

Endowed Chairs

Language is being developed to go into the University Handbook to indicate that endowed chairs are subject to the same things that any other faculty are entitled to. This language will be ready and presented at the July Senate meeting.

Faculty at Other Sites

Ralph will contact Keith Welsh to see if he can get a report.

Financial Picture

In light of the very muddled picture of finances that is out there, the question was asked if there was a way the Senate could find out more information about Webster's current financial picture? Many faculty have expressed concern and want to know if the Senate is asking questions. The perception is that there are financial inconsistencies and this is causing people to question the transparency of communication from administration and has become a cause for concern. It is irresponsible of the Senate not to ask questions. It was suggested that Greg Gunderson be contacted for his thoughts and possibly to attend a Faculty Senate meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:19 p.m.