

Faculty Senate Meeting
August 14, 2014

Gwyneth Williams, Faculty Senate President, Presiding

Members Present: John Aleshunas, Jef Awada, Larry Baden, Glen Bauer, Carla Colletti, Don Conway-Long, Anne Geraghty-Rathert, Ted Green, Tori Meyer, J.P. Palmer-Schuyler, Chris Sagovac, Jill Stulce, Keith Welsh

Approval of Minutes

The April 10, 2014 Faculty Senate minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

The July 23, 2014 Faculty Senate minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Announcements

Gwyneth will be meeting with the new status track faculty next week to welcome them to Webster and share information with them. She invited other Senators to join the meeting, if their schedule allows.

It was mentioned that a few years ago, there was a faculty mentoring program and it seemed like a good program. The suggestion was made to ask new faculty if this is something that they would be interested in.

City Council Meeting

Gwyneth shared an email from Dr. Greg Gunderson regarding the meeting of the Webster Groves City Council next week. The Council will be reviewing the proposed amended Educational Campus Zoning. This zoning would prohibit Webster University and Eden from further collaboration or from purchasing each other's land. The zoning would also define Webster and Eden as different types of educational entities, separating their zoning districts.

Faculty that live and vote in Webster Groves will be contacted and asked to attend the City Council meeting as unofficial spokespeople to speak against the proposed zoning.

Fall Institute Update

Glen Bauer has received seven proposals to date. Glen will set up a drop box for the rest of the institute committee to review the proposals. The committee will need to meet again to plan the final details of the institute.

September 9th Faculty Assembly Meeting Agenda

The proposed agenda for the September 9th Faculty Assembly is:

- Announcements & Introduction of New Faculty
- Report on Extraordinary Merit document
- Enrollment Report
- Criteria for Performance Pay

Gwyneth asked the Senate for any additional agenda items for the September 9th faculty assembly.

Goals to Present to Administrative Council

Each member of the Administrative Council was asked to present a list of goals for 2014-2015.

The following draft of Faculty Senate goals was shared and discussed:

- Disseminate sample criteria for assessing “satisfactory performance” of faculty members and implement the new model. Assist departments in developing criteria.
- Develop model for awarding “extraordinary merit” raises.
- Develop new Handbook language for types of non-status faculty positions (e.g., “lecturer,” “instructor”).
- Plan and execute fall and spring faculty institutes
- Oversee Senate committees
- Oversee faculty centennial participation

It was observed that Department criteria for “satisfactory performance” could be sent to the Senate to keep on file. Gwyneth mentioned this in an email sent to department chairs and deans.

Adjunct Issues

The Senate agreed the following important adjunct issues need to be explored further:

- Development of an adjunct review process
- Quality control of adjunct faculty (related to student evaluations)
- Development of a communications network
- Better adjunct representation

A task force was named to address these issues. That task force is comprised of: Jef Awada (co-chair), Larry Baden (co-chair), Anne Geraghty-Rathert, Ted Green, and Terri Reilly.

The task force will meet and give a report to the Senate within the next three weeks. This could be at least a two-year project to fully explore all of the concerns.

A call for adjunct participation in the Faculty Assembly will also be included in the Senate newsletter. In order to participate, adjunct faculty need to have been at Webster for at least three years with their priority being teaching. University staff who teach part time are not eligible.

Task Force on Handbook Definitions

Gwyneth and Glen Bauer will share the most recent draft with Provost Schuster to get more clarity on review of contracts.

Task Force on Extraordinary Merit Pay

The draft document was discussed. The majority of those present preferred a review committee composed of staturesd faculty members. Service on the committee would be mandatory for all staturesd faculty who would serve on a rotating basis.

The task force will draft a model that includes several different variables, as well as research into how other universities establish their committees, and return to the Senate with their findings. This needs to be moved forward quickly.

The next Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for August 28th from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.