

Senate Steering Committee
Minutes
August 12, 2010
3-5 PM
226Tigert

Attendees:

Mary Ann Ferguson
Barbara Wingo
Regina Bussing
Joe Glover
Jack Mecholsky
Bernie Machen
Henrietta Logan
Amelia Bell

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM.

The minutes of the June meeting were approved.

Reports:

Chair's Report

Mary Ann Ferguson, Chair

Mary Ann Ferguson reported that the chair training session, facilitated by human resources, will be held on September 3 from 1-3 pm. Ferguson met with deans and vice presidents over the summer. Various subjects came up during these meetings including: deans expressed support for the FEO program; the UCC backlog has been resolved; questions about incentives for interdisciplinary activities and background checks for new employees arose; some expressed concern about an overreliance on teaching evaluations; requests were made for clearer guidelines for the Salary Performance Plan for faculty, especially those applying the second time; the obbuds position has been filled; the campus is now smoke free; some faculty are pushing back retirement; development of a policy on proctoring discussion; and revisiting SACS.

She noted that the College of Dentistry will be the pilot college for the online tenure and promotion process. Ferguson also expressed concern about tenure and promotion issues for professional programs, especially clinical tracks.

President's Report

Bernie Machen, President

Bernie Machen reported that faculty performance and funding are good this year and that the university has hired 100 new faculty. He also discussed progress on new buildings including Hough Hall, the Asian Art wing at the Harn, the Eastside campus and the new HSC building. Machen discussed the UPD report on the Corry Village investigation. A report on the review of mental health services for faculty, staff and students is forthcoming. He also reported that the LGBT committee is creating a proposal for the expansion for the nondiscrimination policy to include gender expression. The committee will bring the proposal to the Senate. Students have also been asked to provide input.

Provost's Report

Joe Glover, Provost

Joe Glover reported that the university has hired a new ombudsman. Additional new hires include the director of the office of academic support and the director of the center for undergraduate research. The online teaching

evaluation pilot will begin this fall. The objective is to have online evaluations university wide by fall 2011. Glover also discussed the possibility of formalizing the process for peer evaluations of teaching.

The steering committee discussed RCM and Glover stressed that the Senate involvement in the university curriculum committee will provide the opportunity to ensure that classroom quality continues. He also asked the Senate to pay attention to interdisciplinary teaching and research and reported that Brian Harfe, a faculty member from the College of Medicine, will work with the deans to help the deans understand RCM and he has already visited most deans. The committee also discussed effort reporting.

Council Agendas for the 2010-2011 Academic Year:

Academic Policy Council

Nancy Poehlman, Chair

No report.

Budget Council

Regina Bussing/James Klausner, Co-Chairs

The council is working to create a way of reporting basic data across units for comparison of RCM implementation.

The council would also like to look at ways to help develop RCM learning modules.

Infrastructure Council

Mark Orazem, Chair

No report.

Research and Scholarship Council

Henrietta Logan, Chair

The council would like to meet with budget council sometime to discuss RCM. Possible fall information items include: an update on campus IT, the HSC consolidation, and support for classroom compatibility.

Welfare Council

Kathy Light, Chair

No report.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 PM

The August Senate agenda was approved.