

Faculty Senate Steering Meeting
Minutes
September 1, 2011
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Tigert 226

Attendees: Paul Ortiz, Magaret Temple-Smith, Jim Ferrer, Barbara Wingo, Marc Heft, Deanna Pelfrey, Cynthia Morton, David Quillen, Jackie Ayers, Mary Ann Ferguson, Jen Day Shaw, Cheri Brodeur, Mark Tillman, Nancy Poehlmann, Bernard Mair, Dyan Gershman, Brian Harfe, Ken Berns, Mike Katovich, Joe Glover, Deb Muir, Sue Alver, Scott Nygren

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. and introductions were made. Minutes from August were approved.

Chair's Report

Scott Nygren, Faculty Senate Chair

Scott Nygren suggested that due to the many issues the Faculty Senate has for this year, it would be beneficial to revive "topical discussion" at Senate meetings. This will give the faculty a chance to comment on upcoming issues. For the topical discussion in September, Scott asked Marc Heft (Budget Council) to assist on the subject of benefits restructuring. Academic Policy Council would take the lead on the Graduate Program Renewal for October and a representative from Welfare Council could do Self-Insurance in spring.

Provost's Report

Joe Glover, Provost

Joe Glover had four items for the committee.

- Dr. Machen intends to focus 2011-2012 on doctoral education. Deans were given instructions on how to go about reviewing the doctoral programs in their units. Preliminary reports are due November 15, 2011. Colleges and Departments will discuss then submit the final document by January 6, 2012.
- Regionalization proposal has basically gone away.
- The President will actively be involved with the discussion on a proposal for higher education patterned after Texas.
- Fine Arts Library: Decisions have to be made about providing more space for Art & Art History and School of Music. Suggestions should be addressed responsibly.

Information Items

Honorary Degrees

Ken Berns, Chair, Honorary Degrees Committee

Dr. Berns gave a brief synopsis on the vetting by colleges and approving of five candidates for Honorary Degrees. The Honorary Degrees Committee and President Machen have approved these candidates, now they must be approved by the Faculty Senate and the Board of Trustees.

New Syllabus Policy

Bernard Mair, Chair, Curriculum Committee

Bernard Mair distributed the old and new versions of the course syllabi policy. This policy gives the minimum requirements for syllabi. These documents are to be posted on publically accessible websites starting sometime during the Fall 2011 term.

Proposed Amendments

Paul Ortiz, Chair, Constitution Committee

This item was continued from last spring. The Constitution Committee has been working on the wording of two amendments that were passed by the Senate.

General Education Committee. The President or the President's designee shall appoint eight voting members to this committee from the majority of baccalaureate degree-granting colleges within the University. The Senate shall elect eight voting members from the faculty at large. Student Government shall select two non-voting members. The non-voting chair shall be appointed by the President or the President's designee. A co-chair who shall have the right to vote shall be elected by and from the Committee senate representatives. The General Education Committee establishes a philosophy of what constitutes the general education component for baccalaureate degrees offered by the University. It reviews, in accordance with established criteria, all courses proposed to fulfill General Education and University Writing and Math requirements. It makes recommendations to the Curriculum Committee regarding the continued effectiveness of the general education program.

University Curriculum Committee. The President or the President's designee shall appoint twelve voting members to this committee from the majority of baccalaureate degree-granting colleges within the University. The Senate shall elect twelve voting members from the faculty at large. Student Government shall select three non-voting members. A chair is appointed by the President or the President's designee. A co-chair who shall have the right to vote shall be elected by and from the Committee senate representatives. This Committee shall consider all requests for changes in undergraduate curricula or catalog listings, and for the addition of new courses of instruction in any of the colleges, divisions and schools of the University, except the Graduate School. When the question under consideration pertains to a course or courses at the "5000" level, available for graduate major credit, the Committee shall act jointly with the Graduate School. The Committee shall endeavor to eliminate unnecessary proliferation of courses and duplication of subject matter among courses. Ordinarily, the Committee's decisions on proposals to add courses to the curriculum or to delete courses from the curriculum shall be final, but the department that is offering the course, or proposing to offer it, may appeal the Committee's decision to the Senate. Such an appeal shall be addressed to the Committee, which shall either reverse its earlier decision or ask the Steering Committee to schedule Senate consideration of the appeal. The Committee's decision on proposals to add, delete, or make changes in programs of instruction leading to undergraduate degrees shall not be a final decision, but shall be submitted to the Senate for final action. When the Committee begins to consider items requiring Senate approval, the Committee's co-chair shall inform the Chair of the Academic Policy Council.

Effort Reporting

Jim Ferrer, Asst Vice President, Finance and Planning, & **Angel Kwolek-Folland**, Associate Provost

Jim Ferrer noted that the new Effort Reporting system will go online in October. He and Dr. Kwolek-Folland are working to get the word out to faculty that it is available. Information sessions on how to use the system are located online. SCORS, faculty and staff have participated as focus groups.

Council Reports

Scott Nygren noted that even though we have co-chairs for some of the councils, there can only be one “voting chair” for Steering Committee. Dr. Nygren asked that the co-chairs please decide who will be the “voting chair” for their council.

Research and Scholarship Council

Debra Murie, Co-Chair

SCORS had its first meeting last week. Discussion revolved around the 2011-2012 agenda, internationalization and interdisciplinary research, update on the online tenure and promotion package, University’s IT strategic plan, and effort reporting.

Welfare Council

Deanna Pelfrey, Chair

Welfare Council met prior to Steering Committee today. Dr. David Guzick and Dr. Marvin Dewar were in attendance to discuss the self-insurance study and marketing Gator Advantage. Besides self-insurance, the council’s focus will be on benefit restructuring by staying in touch with Marc Heft and the Budget Council, tuition waivers, **academic freedom**, and gender inequities.

Academic Policy Council

Nancy Poehlman, Co-Chair

APC’s first meeting is next week. Issues will be Graduate Education with plans to do a “topical discussion” at the October Faculty Senate meeting.

Budget Council

Marc Heft, Chair

Budget Council will meet next week. Tasks will include impact of RCM on interdisciplinary research, benefit restructuring, vacation accruals, and Mark will take the lead in the September “topical discussion”.

Infrastructure Council

Mark Tillman, Co-Chair

Infrastructure Council meets tomorrow. On the agenda will be a responsible discussion on the Fine Arts Library.

Agenda for September Faculty Senate Meeting

Agenda for September 22, 2011 Faculty Senate meeting was approved with some revisions.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.