

Faculty Senate College Council Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2012, 10AM-12:00 PM
Tigert 226

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Senate Chair report:

Scott Nygren told the committee to expect to see more restructuring within colleges that could lead to dramatic changes. Shared Governance needs to play a role. Faculty can't control the economic situation but we can have some meaningful conversations. Whatever else happens we don't want to put faculty in situations where they are voting against each other in the decision making process. Discussion of policy is an area where faculty can assist. We need to work to have positive face to face conversations between faculty and administration.

Nygren discussed the development of a mission statement task force. It had been discussed first last fall but had been put on hold temporarily by the economic situation and other issues. Faculty have been too concerned with cuts to focus on the mission. The council showed interest in having a task force developed "sooner rather than later." Their reasoning was that we have SACs, a search for a new president and having a new mission statement would be helpful. It was voted that Nygren begin the process to select a committee as soon as possible.

College Council Discussion:

CLAS- Kevin discussed issues with budget cuts in CLAS. They are worried about the 5/6 million dollar cuts. They have reduced staff by 30%. Nygren suggested a taskforce for CLAS that may be able to suggest more radical and innovative changes. Nygren will work with CLAS (his college) in discussing with the CLAS dean the implementation of such a task force.

DCP—Dawn said that faculty governance is "coming to life." The council is working on by-laws. They have had some hiring issues but are working with the dean and unions on the issues. They are working with the dean on improving transparency. Question they brought up about the DCP council is who exactly can be on the council. All deans/chairs are actually faculty. Feel this issue needs to be addressed. They would also like to see the implementation of a faculty ombuds to deal with some of the issues that arise between administration/faculty and faculty/faculty.

Dentistry - Henrietta has run into problems in the past when restructuring. Their college created FAB but they have many committees that are not tied in. Henrietta is visiting with chairs trying to figure out how they can work together. They have the challenge of who is an administrator and who is not. They would like to see a faculty Ombuds. They are working on better communication. Some information gained through governance groups are not shared with anyone.

Nursing—Jane wants a faculty ombuds. Right now faculty have no way to defend themselves against charges. Deans are considered faculty. Nursing has done a survey and looked at issues. There needs to be a better orientation of new faculty. There needs to be better clarity in who has what decision making power and what kind of power to make what policies. Nursing is working on a strategic plan.

Pharmacy—Rich Segal—Pharmacy is doing a strategic plan. They are going on with a self-study. They are getting close to needing to do the pharmacy accreditation. They have goals in place but are dealing with how to implement. They are looking at student requirements and where they need to be—this may mean they need to change some of their teaching methods. They may need to bring in new faculty. They are also looking at new ways to bring in off-book funds. Gator care has been under discussion. They are evaluating existing faculty committees and have recently created two new committees while also eliminating two.

PHHP—Jamie said the college is reviewing hiring practices. They are being hurt by some hiring practices. Half of salary is often covered by grants. They need .5 FTE covered.

HHP - Steve reminded the council that HHP is made up of just three departments. The budget dominates most of their conversations. The dean recently met with the college faculty and the council. The college has several active searches going on but they may not be able to fill the positions. That may not be enough though. Living-well might have to be closed. They are entering the second year of testing the T&P online system. The college is concerned with the delay in FEO awards.

IFAS—Art sat in for Suzanne Smith. He is the incoming chair of the IFAS Assembly. They want a vertical cut. The budget is foremost. IFAS has many “seasoned” faculty who are still concerned with the 3% pension cut and the changes to benefits.

Journalism—Jon Morris discussed the dean search. He talked about special committees and that in the constitution there is no elaboration of what a committee can do. Faculty wants to look at curriculum. There will be a symposium next year to discuss curriculum.

Law- Tracy said that they have a very effective governance with their dean.

Libraries—Naomi said that there is transparency on the budget issues in library. There are some issues with the Florida Virtual campus as it affects the libraries. This college is also looking at faculty who may not be faculty.

Fine Arts—Liz says the budget is the primary issue since they have nothing to cut except salaries. They have already done shared services and pushed fees to the limit. RCM is a threat for them. RCM has not worked well for fine arts at other universities. They have offset this issue at other universities by requiring universities take and art class. Budget is making morale grim. They are losing people. Last people hired are teaching a large number of students. Cuts will make this worse.

Education—Paul said education has a faculty definition that specifically excludes deans/chairs. They are in the second year of a strategic plan and are looking at identified issues. They have a budget advisory committee through which information flows. Good information is flowing through from the dean. The dean attends faculty governance meetings and remains respectful of the governance process.

Engineering—Susan said the budget is the number one issue and they are facing a potential big cut. Dean did a town hall meeting and they have a blog for feedback. Susan said that the Dean modified the constitution with Barbara Wingo. United faculty sent an email to the dean but the dean can't respond now without attorneys involved. Scott will be talking to Barbara Wingo about this issue. There is still a great deal of discussion about the possible merger of two departments but the dean has said she is looking at other options. There are issues with the constitution and Susan is interested in seeing if any

other colleges are using language in their bylaws that would be helpful in the conflict over some language discussion between the faculty and the dean.

Following the college discussions Scott reviewed the decision to set up the mission statement task-force immediately. There was a motion from Henrietta for the Faculty Senate Chair to look into the need for a faculty ombuds. Tracy seconded the motion and there was a unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.