

**Faculty Affairs Committee Minutes:  
September 2, 2008**

**Attending:** Ellen Urton, Richard Hoag, James Nechols, Amy Schultz, Bill Hsu, Clyde Howard, Mark Haub, Kaleen Knopp, Donita Whitney-Bammerlin, Judy Hughey

**1. Call to order & Approval of May 20, 2008 minutes**

Hoag moved to approve: passed unanimously

**2. Updates from Senator Nechols**

**Discussion of University President Search process –**

- Faculty Senate Leadership and faculty were given the opportunity to discuss aspects to consider when selecting the candidates.
- Requested opportunity for Faculty Senate to visit with interviewed candidates, but stated that no promise was made.

**Campus Security Response Guide –**

- Is being designed to better enable emergency information to be disseminated quickly.

**Selection of Shubert to replace Rawson as Vice President of**

**Finance** – since the process was internal, clarification was made that this decision was an exception as internal knowledge of financial issues is needed for this position.

School of Leadership Studies – Currently, the program is being governed by the Provost. With the aid of the Executive Leadership, a task force is being formed to help the Provost with decision-making issues.

**3. 2008-09 Tentative Agenda**

Senator Nechols provided a list of items for Faculty Affairs to consider acting on for the coming year (it was included with the meetings agenda as an attachment).

-It was decided that the Spoken English policy is an evolving process and that Faculty Affairs should be briefed on the developing policies and/or processes to act or react as desired. It was noted that a remediation plan was still not seemingly established for this policy.

-Senator Whitney-Bammerlin then requested that we should learn what issues students might have regarding faculty issues. Senator Shultz stated that some student concerns are:

- \*Childcare center support
- \*Learning about the Promotion and Tenure process to better understand how faculty are evaluated
- \*Some students are frustrated about whether their evaluations are valued.
- \*Discussion amongst Senators followed pertaining to how teaching styles and availability of teaching assistants/resources affect

perceptions of teaching performance. It was also raised that the new Teacher Effectiveness Coordinator may improve some of these student concerns.

-Chronic Low Achievement – Senate President Fairchild will be getting a reply from the Provost to better understand criteria. Also, questions were raised regarding what the Board of Regents wants and expects.

-Due to the number of items on the Tentative Agenda, it was recommended and agreed unanimously to table reviewing Appendix O until next year.

-It was recommended that an Appendix M review be put on hold until the Appendix G recommendations have been accepted. It was also suggested that the Appendix M material be reviewed by the attorney's office and Susana Valdovinos.

-Concerns were raised regarding the Dependent tuition waiver as some applicants seem to have been denied the waiver due to when their application was submitted. It was asked why there appeared to be a 'due date'.

-Senator Hughey raised issues pertaining to the item addressing disability support as miscommunication often occurs so that faculty may not fully understand what is needed (time complete an exam, different location to take exams, other types of information for studying material, etc.). The information that is disseminated does not seem to contain enough information.

#### **4. Other Business**

-An Electronic Device Policy is being considered; however its implementation is problematic given that emergency and student support is often conveyed via an electronic device (e.g., text messages on cellular phones).

-Dates of meetings in October and November. It was suggested, due to schedule conflicts, that the October meeting occur on 10/28/08 instead of the currently scheduled 10/21/08. Likewise, it was recommended that subcommittees meet on the currently scheduled date of 11/18/08 instead of a meeting of the full committee. Both schedule options were accepted.

#### **8. Adjourn 5:05pm**

Minutes written and submitted by Senator Haub; reviewed and edited by FAC Chair, Nechols.