

MINUTES
Faculty Senate Faculty Affairs Committee
November 17, 2009

In attendance: Kaleen Knopp, Jim Nechols, Jim Bloodgood, Ellen Urton, Jennifer Askey, Bob Condia, Beth Davis, Amy Schultz, Elaine Johannes, Judy Hughey

- I. Approval of Nov 10, 2009 minutes (Urton, Nechols—passes unanimously)
- II. Announcements (Knopp)

--An offer was made and accepted for the position of Provost to April Mason from Colorado State University. Bloodgood commented on how refreshing it is to see the transparency involved in making the contract public, etc.

--FAC was encouraged to make sure that our committee and our colleagues in our departments and caucuses participate in the budget fora. Questions can be sent to Candace in advance. Visitors to a forum can also write their questions on cards and give to Faculty Senate President LeHew at the forum. Nechols asked if we all understood that budget decisions will be announced in January or February. Condia expressed concerned that budget conversations need clarity of leadership behind them—the captain of the ship needs to steer, as it were. Knopp responded that President Schulz is committed to setting the agenda and making the final decisions but wants faculty input before he makes those decisions.

III. Subcommittee Reports

A. University Handbook Committee (Knopp)

Yolanda Howard will visit FAC December 1 meeting to give an update on their progress.

B. Graduate Grievance Policy

Our recommended revisions were sent to Dean Shanklin. Hughey and Shanklin have communicated about the proposed changes. The current draft is now with the Graduate Council Student Affairs for their next agenda. The concern for more documentation of cases rather than less has been addressed. After Graduate Council Student Affairs passes a version, it will return to the FAC. FAC will present the policy to Faculty Senate as a sharing of information item. It will not be presented to either the FAC or Faculty Senate as an action item needing approval or endorsement.

Although the current language for grad grievances is improved and shows the communal work of Faculty Senate and Graduate School, the governance issue that underlies this issue and makes it problematic remains. The governance issues will be discussed with the new Provost.

(side note on governance issues: the new Entrepreneurship Minor is arriving in the Colleges Academic Affairs inbox w/o an academic home. The

Entrepreneurship Minor Webpage seems to indicate a preference for an alternative academic curriculum committee, raising the question regarding the University Handbook language role of the Academic Affairs on curricular issues.)

C. Technology and Textbook (Bloodgood, no news)

D. Salary and Fringe Benefits (Varnadore, no news)

E. Open Access/Scholarly Publications/E-everything (Askey, Nechols, Urton—no news)

- There was discussion of the charge of the subcommittee. The subcommittee plans to produce a statement/overview for FAC Sen and our colleagues that outlines the impact of open access on our role as (a) producers of scholarship and (b) consumers of scholarship.

- The subcommittee will create a KRX and other open access presentations to Faculty Senate

- A report will be submitted at a later date.

F. TOEFL/TSE/speak test

- Hughey has spoken with Interim Provost Dyer and they need to meet and go over the BOR requirements. A&S departments are concerned about keeping the standards for the speak test high.

- The subcommittee will meet to discuss language for revised policy

- The goal is to develop a proposal for UH language that outlines the requirements for GTAs, a remediation plan, and a review of all pertinent test scores.

- This is an item to be discussed with the new Provost.

VI. Tuition waiver for dependents (no news)

VII. E-portfolio Taskforce Update (Hughey)

- Provost and FAC Sen are putting together a taskforce and are still soliciting names. Hughey is looking for one additional Faculty Senator. Rebecca Gould is co-chairing. We need distribution on this committee that covers both fields of scholarly inquiry and technological expertise level.

VIII. Conflict of Interest Language (Gould)

- see attached language from NIH as model

- our language is in Appx S from UH

at our last meeting, we passed Friendly Amendment language. Do we see anything in the NIH language that we should use/include?

--Bloodgood, Nechols and Askey talked about the notion of “perceived” conflict of interest. In both instances in our language changes, we will change would to could.

New draft language: The applicant(s) or employee(s) is/are obligated to disclose all persons who could have potential conflicts of interest in providing an unbiased evaluation of the applicant or employee.

Involved parties are obligated to disclose all relationships that could preclude an unbiased evaluation of an applicant or employee.

(Gould and Schultz move and second; new language passes unanimously)

IX. Appx G Grievance procedures (Knopp, Hughey)

--now having used the revised version of Appx G, certain weaknesses were exposed in the new language. Knopp and Hughey will work with administrators and members of the grievance panel on refining the process. At issue is whether or not there can be language in the UH that filters the types of grievance that can come before the board. Currently the Grievance Panel Chair has to make the decision alone as to whether a grievance goes forward to a hearing. This is perceived to be an issue of concern. A Peer Review Board is one possibility being considered to assist the Grievance Panel Chair.

--Nechols cautioned against overhauling the Appx unless there are real weaknesses that must be addressed.

--Hughey and Knopp assured us that any potential revisions to the document will come to our committee for approval.

--Gould spoke in favor of a "tough, autonomous, gatekeeper" mentality for the Grievance Panel Chair; someone who is autonomous, a senior faculty, and can speak truth to the Provost's office.

--Nechols asked whether or not the concerns of the attorney's office and the Panel chair revolve around deflecting time and responsibility rather than on real quirks in the Appx G language.

X. Old Business/New Business/Students

--Schultz (student senate): city has finalized work on mass transit proposals and there will be an open house on December 2nd (Wed) from 5:30 – 7:30 at City Hall. Faculty and staff should come. It was suggested that a reminder from Candace might be helpful.

--Nechols requested a discussion of the current sabbatical policy. Preference given to ½ year sabbaticals is, for example, problematic. Knopp suggested communicating with Yolanda (UH subcommittee) and working on it at that level.

--Condia questioned how faculty in various units and departments were to find out that all classes/sections are to be evaluated with IDEA or TEVALs as of this semester. We as senators, plus deans and department heads, shoulder the responsibility for disseminating this information.

--Cheng gallery in Seaton Hall: art opening on Thursday at 4:30, with cookies.

--Hughey, S&FB committee still needs a FAC liaison from our committee.

XI. Adjourn, 5:05pm