

MINUTES
Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting
December 1, 2009

Attendance: Judy Hughey, Kaleen Knopp, Rebecca Gould, Amy Schultz, Jennifer Askey, Jim Bloodgood, Carol Kellett, Ellen Urton, Bob Condia

I. Approval of November 17, 2009 minutes (Askey, Schultz, passes unanimously)

II. The revisions to the University Handbook, Section A40, Conflict of Interest, passed Executive Committee as presented. It has been placed on the December 8, 2009, Senate agenda as an action item.

III. Judy Hughey discussed with Vicki Clegg the revisions to the University Handbook, Section C30-34, on Faculty Evaluation. It was suggested the wording be changed to clarify the intent for each course to be evaluated each semester and that the evaluations be submitted for analysis. These revisions can be infused in Section C of the University Handbook as the section is being reviewed in the comprehensive rewrite of the Handbook.

Committee members Rebecca Gould, Bob Condia, and Judy Hughey discussed the need for individual senators to communicate changes in policy to their Caucuses. In addition, the Dean's and Provost's offices need to communicate revisions to UH policy.

The traditional chain of communication has been Provost→CAP→Council of Deans→Department Heads→Faculty

We need to be conscious of where Faculty Senate fits into that structure. Any UH changes are effective when Faculty Senate approves changes. It was suggested that the Provost, Dean's and Department Head's listserv could be used to communicate. The Provost Office and Senate Office might also communicate the revisions and post in a known location. Amy Schultz remarked that Student Senate has an efficient way of tracking amendments and language as its passed. She would be willing to advise Faculty Senate on tracking issues.

IV. The University Handbook Committee is in need of a new chair. Kaleen Knopp has been serving as interim chair but cannot chair two committees and still perform her teaching position. Carol Kellett has been asked to assume the chair of the committee. The current iteration of the committee has divided it into sections to strategize tackling the project.

Issues for the Committee:

A different committee is developing an electronic policy library to enable the University Handbook and the Policy and Procedure Manual to be housed electronically at one site. Fred Fairchild is the Faculty Senate committee liaison.

The University Handbook must be reviewed in terms of content and compliance with law, BOR, up-to-date, language, etc.

Bob Condia and Carol Kellett asked about hiring someone to help with the University Handbook project.

V. Graduate Student Grievance Policy (Hughey and Johannes)

Judy Hughey reported that the proposed revisions are moving through the graduate council organizational structure.

VI. Technology and Textbook Committee (Bloodgood)

The committee will meet on December 4 and will have more to report at next meeting.

VII. Language of Instruction Committee (Hughey, Nechols, and Schultz)

The committee will meet the last week of the semester. They will review other Big 12 school policies.

VIII. Tuition Waiver for Dependents

The task force is still at work.

The BOR is giving the universities options from which to choose when it comes to waivers. It appears that the BOR wants increased flexibility. President Schulz is also interested in KSU Heritage Scholarships.

IX. Open Access/Scholarly Publications (Askey, Nechols, and Urton)

The Committee will meet the first week of classes in Spring 2010.

X. E-Portfolio Joint Taskforce (FAC with the Provost Office) (Gould)

A memo from Provost, FAC, and Task Force will be sent to the Deans outlining the purpose of the taskforce. Rebecca Gould is co-chairing with Rob Caffey.

XI. Student Senate (Schultz)

No report.

XII. Faculty Salaries and Fringe Benefits Committee (Varnadore, Guest)

Attachment regarding status of pay: KSU Faculty Salaries in Comparative and Historical Perspective Fact Sheet

Sabbatical Issues (Jim Nechols)

The President's Office is pursuing endowed chairs.

XIII. Announcements

President Schulz is meeting with Department Heads who will fit under the new Vice President for Communications and Marketing and will make the announcement about how departments/units will be affected by this new position. Consolidation is the word of the day.

Kaleen Knopp asked if the committee had heard any feedback from the budget sessions? (consensus—no) There will be another forum session in February. Do we want two sessions again? The February session will take place after the President has announced his priorities and recommendations, thus giving us the opportunity to test/respond/rebut.

Bob Condia questioned whether there is a way to quantify the changes in workload, quality of production, quality and amount of student-professor interaction as a result of the budget cuts. Rebecca Gould and Carol Kellett expressed concern that addressing budget over strategy could leave us penny-wise and pound-foolish. Or, we might save a little bit, but are we moving in a strategic direction.