

**Kansas State University Faculty Senate
Faculty Affairs Committee
Minutes of November 15, 2016**

Attendance: Charlie Barden (Extension Co-Chair), Kristan Corwin (Arts and Sciences), Troy Harding (via Zoom from Salina campus), Stephen Kucera (Student Senate), Jason Maseberg-Tomlinson (General University), Char Simser (University Libraries), Jackie Spears (Education), Jeff Stevenson (Agriculture), Brian Niehoff (Provost liaison), Charlotte Self (NCS liaison), and Mick Charney (AA liaison)

Meeting called to order at 3:33 p.m. by Charles Barden (Co-Chair)

Request for substitute secretary to record minutes

Jeff Stevenson agreed to substitute.

Minutes of November 1, 2016 were approved

I. Old Business

Teaching Evaluation System Working Group

- A suggestion was made that Jana Fallin could enhance the university's Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning website by providing links to other resource information dealing with student feedback and teaching evaluations (e.g., Michigan State University and Vanderbilt).
- New and current department heads should receive more training on how to integrate student feedback and other feedback in their evaluation of faculty instruction.
- Provost could be encouraged to sponsor a university-wide seminar-lecture-symposium dealing with the import and value of student feedback on teaching during Spring 2017 semester.
- It would be desirable to receive some feedback from selected department heads about how they evaluate teaching by faculty in their unit.
- Current status and direction of our working group:
 1. Do we desire to change the current Faculty Handbook policy that requires every course to be evaluated every semester?
 2. An alternative scaled down policy to recommend that student feedback be required every semester for tenure-track faculty and less often (once annual) for tenured faculty. Steve Kucera was tasked to take the pulse of Student Senate regarding a change in policy
 3. If not all classes are evaluated, should students have an avenue to provide feedback when desired via an alternative source (may lead to a site for venting and caustic feedback) or optional TEVAL or IDEA instrument available for every course every semester. Students always have the option to contact the faculty member's department head. The College of Veterinary Medicine requires students to sign their evaluation feedback to provide civility.
- Discussion of the importance of student feedback: (1) tenured faculty have been dismissed for chronically under achieving in teaching; (2) students should be educated about the import of student feedback (i.e., feedback is taken seriously by the majority of faculty and by all department heads).
- Our objective is to improve teaching (faculty's responsibility) and improve learning (student's responsibility) and the interaction of the two responsibilities.

II. Review status of Section C and Provost suggestions

- Waiting for Professional Staff to respond to the Provost's questions and comments that deal directly with professional staff.

III. New Business

- Brief discussion of cancelling afternoon classes or delaying start of Fall 2017 semester on August 21 when a solar eclipse is to occur that afternoon. Discussed in detail in the Academic Affairs meeting today (per Mick Charney who joined our meeting later as their liaison)

Next Meeting: December 6, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. (Business Building 2138)

Adjourned at 4:55 p.m.