

MINUTES
KSU Faculty Senate Committee on University Planning
Thursday, April 2, 3:30 pm
Union 205

Present: Behnke, Graham, Bloodgood, Hohn, Collins, Howe, Vontz, Crenshaw, McKinney, Wang, Valdovinos

1. Chair Tom Vontz called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.
2. March 5th minutes were approved.
3. Vontz announced that it was time to nominate and elect a Chair of FSCOUP for the 2009-2010 academic year. Vontz was nominated and elected as chair of FSCOUP for 2009-2010.
4. Vontz announced that FSCOUP would host a Faculty Forum on Campus Safety on April 23rd at 1:30 in the Big Twelve Room. The purpose of this forum is to allow faculty and staff to learn about newly initiated safety measures and interact with those responsible for their implementation. Vontz also announced that FSCOUP would hold a special budget meeting Thursday, April 9 at 3:30 at the Union to discuss our responses to the budget questions with Provost Nellis, Associate Provost Dyer, Vice President Shubert, and Cindy Bontrager, Director of the KSU Budget Office. Vontz also announced that since sending FSCOUP's memo to the university administration, he had met with the Provost, Associate Provost, and Vice President for Finance who assured him that, even though furloughs are not mentioned in Appendix B, any decision to furlough would be made in consultation with the faculty.
5. Vontz gave a brief report and update of the budget situation. Vontz explained that the cuts, as currently projected were closer to 10% than 7%, which had been published in the press. Vontz explained that stimulus funding required that the higher education budget be tied to the K-12 budget. He also explained that the 40 million in stimulus funding for higher education was designated mostly for deferred maintenance, not tuition mitigation (though by law it could be used for this purpose). Also, it was not clear whether the 1% salary increase for university employees was for only classified or both classified and unclassified staff. If it were for both, it would cost the university approximately 2.5 million to fund; if it were for classified only, it would cost the university approximately .5 million.
6. Vontz recognized guests an attendance at the FSCOUP meeting including President Fairchild, President-elect Lehew, and Chair of Faculty Senate Committee on Technology, Tweed Ross. President Fairchild thanked the committee members for their efforts on behalf of the Faculty Senate. Senator Ross encouraged the committee to keep the lines of communication open between FSCOUP and other Faculty Senate Committees as we consider important budget questions.
7. Vontz opened the floor for discussion of the questions that were sent to FSCOUP by Provost Nellis. Vontz explained that these questions were generated by the Provost and the Deans based on the feedback from the college-level committees on planning, and comments from faculty and staff.
 - How can we engage colleges and departments in increasing teaching productivity in terms of student credit hours per faculty FTE while maximizing the time and talents of their faculty?
 - How should we ensure that under-enrolled courses are canceled (recognizing the need for some exceptions and ensuring freed up faculty time is used productively)?
 - What is your feedback on creating expert business offices and IT support centers across campus and eliminate distributed approaches to these services?
 - Can we create more pro-active advising of students regarding preparatory coursework that would increase SCH's in foundation courses at K-State?
 - Should we downsize university computer labs (in the age of laptops, etc)?
 - If we need to have a university-wide furlough, how should it be implemented?
 - How should the university proceed and what principles should the university employ in its consideration of mergers of academic units?

8. Senators Graham, Wang, and Crenshaw suggested that the questions raised other critical questions that needed to be resolved prior answering these questions: to what extent should budget issues be resolved centrally? Which ones are best resolved at the departmental or college levels? What principles should decision makers follow in deciding cuts?
9. After extended discussion, the committee raised issues that focused on the following questions:
 - Are there decentralized aspects of the university that could be centralized for an appreciable cost savings? (This discussion flowed naturally from your questions relating to IT--but we thought there might be other areas as well?).
 - If courses or programs at KSU no longer serve a large populations of students or are no longer central to the mission of the university, who will make the decisions to cut programs or cancel classes and who will decide the criteria by which those decisions should be made?
 - What proactive measures might be taken by the faculty to work toward solving the budget problem? How might faculty, staff, and the entire KSU community work toward informing the legislature of the practical realities of such large budget reductions? We have KSU supporters and employees (e.g., County Extension, 4-H) in every county that might be mobilized to inform decision makers.
 - How would a furlough work in practice? What about faculty or staff whose salary was supported by grants? Would faculty be allowed to add the furlough days to their days they might be paid for consulting?
10. Next Meeting: SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING Thursday, April 9nd at 3:30 in Union 205.