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USFSP Faculty Senate Meeting : 2013 : 10 : 18 : Minutes

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University of South Florida St. Petersburg

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – October 18th, 2013-12:30PM Bayboro 205

- I. **Recognition of Members and Alternates:** Steve Lange (President), Kaya Van Beynen, Jamie McHale, Wei Guan, Deanna Michael, Ella Schmidt.
Members Absent: Chris Davis – Karin Braunsberger for Chris Davis
- II. **Recognition of Guests:** Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska
- III. **Approval of Agenda:** Jamie McHale made a motion to approve the agenda and Wei Guan seconded it. Unanimously approved
- IV. **Approval of the Minutes from previous meeting:** Jamie McHale asked whether his email with suggestions to amend the minutes had been included. Wei Guan will forward McHale's email so that the minutes can be amended accordingly. Jamie McHale made a motion to amend the minutes accordingly and approve them by email vote within a week. Ella Schmidt seconded it. Unanimously approved.
- V. **Administration Report:** RC Sophia Wisniewska
College of Business: building in the works. However, they have to go back to justify finances to Board of Governors
Expenditures Budget: \$5.5 millions have been released to USFSP
Carry forward funds: There are \$20 million USFSP there but they have not been released as of yet as supposedly USF Tampa is very concerned that Moody will downgrade USF rating if there is no sufficient cash on reserve
Foundation funds: only \$6 million can be moved to cover the supposed hole in unrestricted funds (cash reserves) from USF Tampa
Enrollment: this looks good but it has come down by 40 students in 2014. This shouldn't hurt USFSP as projections were already down by a similar number. Profile of students is high. There will be an effort to obtain student lists from high schools so that high achieving students can be identified early. Also, there is an intention to start recruiting international students, so administrators will travel to different fairs in different countries.

Steve indicated: that there is a need to keep faculty informed of changes in recruiting strategies as they have a direct impact on their assigned duties

Sophia: agreed that communication channels need to be improved. It seems that Hogarth knew of all these strategic changes but not even Holly knew of them, so yes, there is a need for more coordination and communication. We need to start the conversation leading to USFSP's mission, goals, etc. (strategic plan? Special conversations?) We do not want to be "USF Light" though. Tampa is accepting students for next semester that were rejected in the Fall to balance the decrease in their enrollment. We will not be as reactive as we have been in the past. We are stable. We are considering a combination of SAT and GPAs instead of just SATs which gives a better idea of students performance and quality.

Strategic Plan: a letter of invitation will be coming out soon. There is a Steering Committee at this point composed by 2 faculty members (Mark Durand and Gregory Patterson, two community members and Vivian Fueyo, Helen Levine and herself. The actual committee will be composed of approximately 60-80 members, 25% of which will be community members (i.e. business, schools, students) and at least 15 faculty members. It will be centered around USFSP ideal size, quality, and distinctiveness. The first meeting will be on November 18-19. Two more meetings will follow in February and March. Letters have gone out to prospective community members.

Jamie: asked whether (and how) each campus Strategic Plan would fit in the supposedly systemic approach that USF has. VC Wisniewska indicated that we are going to be treated as equal partners with our own goals and mission.

Infrastructure needs: (1) The search for the Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs will start early November. (2) A position for a Research Officer (?) is in the works. The ideal candidate should be a senior faculty who would be given course releases and a stipend. (3) Budget issues have only allowed us to hire faculty on a one-year basis. (4) RVCAA Fueyo is working in putting together a mentoring structure for junior faculty. (5) She understands the issues that lack of funding means for faculty research and international travel.

Tenure and Promotion: Steve Lang brought up the fact that USFTampa had over a year to discuss and create new guidelines for T&P. USFSP has only had 9 weeks. Many questions remain: are those guidelines specific to each campus? CBA issues need to be considered. How would the new Strategic Plan for USFSP impact our T&P? RC Wisniewska expressed her

opinion that USFSP should wait until after the Strategic Plan had been put together and continue to abide by the 1998 T&P guidelines.

VI. Action Items

- A) Invitation to Julie Wong and Holly Kickliter. Both are willing to come to our November meeting and present their program efforts and field questions around the changes provoked by Tampa's changes. It was stressed to them that Faculty need to be kept abreast of changes so that they can act accordingly.
- B) **Report from Campus Board:** Steve Lang attended the meeting and personally talked to Judy Genschaft. Discussions revolved on the following: (i) unilateral decisions with no faculty involvement; (ii) imbalance in favor of administration (too many in the wrong places); (iii) student retention, faculty quality, distance learning and adjuncts were other issues discussed. There is a pattern (in St.Pete at least): in the last three years of the 54 hired full time faculty, 44 faculty have left. 23 of them were on tenure track positions. There is a clear loss of quality faculty due to a combination of factors: employment conditions, leadership, salary compression (all this since Genschaft took office): \$400 loss/year up to associate; \$3,000/year for distinguished professors, new hires making more than old hires, etc.
- C) **Library Open Access (Kaya van Beynen):** The Library has passed an Open Access Resolution for the St. Pete campus- It is the first in the USF system. Researchers should try to publish in Open Access journals. A concern was expressed about the irregular quality of many of them and also the fact that several of these journals ask for funds to publish submitted articles. Regardless of what authors decide to do, she suggested that at least faculty should ask to retain their intellectual property. More and more journals are open to this. The Library will host a week of events @ Open Access, from October 22- to the 25th where the benefits/challenges will be presented.
- D) **Cooperative PhD (Curriculum and Instruction) College of Ed. Tampa-St.Pete:** There are on-going conversations between the colleges of Ed. In Tampa and St.Pete about the possibility of offering such PhD program. It could be beneficial for some of St.Pete's disciplines as St.Pete's role would be to offer 'content area' courses for those students. Questions were raised as to the impact on St.Pete campus (i.e. PhD level courses not taught in St.Pete that might need new faculty, burden on current faculty, etc.)

E) Rubrics for awards: seemingly no rubrics have been used in the past. Each committee has created their own and will need to be approved by the Senate. All rubrics were not included in the documents for discussion. Ella Schmidt moved a motion to approve the forms by email vote a week after the Senators have received all rubrics. Deanna Michael seconded it, unanimously approved.

Membership vacancies: All committees are up and running. If members know of vacancies they need to let the Senate know

Course approval forms: the form was approved by the Senate last semester. This form will be used for both GenEd and regular courses

DL Steering Committee: There seems to be a lot of confusion among the Florida Board of Governor members. SACS has policies and requirements but the way they are met is up to each university/college. At this point information has been posted on the General Council’s webpage for general discussion. All courses need to have methods to identify students’ identities and make sure they are who they claim they are. This will need to be approved by Tampa’s IT manager PRIOR to the beginning of each DL course. Steve Lang will keep the Senate informed.

VII. Business for discussion

A. Revision of 1998 T& P guidelines – Based on discussions with the RCSophia Wisniewska and the fact that a Strategic Plan Committee is being formed, the Senate (as per advise of Dr. Wisniewska) decided to delay the discussion until after the Strategic Plan has been created.

Union Report – Steve Lang – Discussions are on going about the budget impasse with USF Tampa and their unwillingness to share the budget with Academic Affairs. The University Council, the Union and Academic Affairs are asking USF CFO to produce such document in order to have a clear idea as to where/how much are USF cash reserves, supposedly needed to not be downgraded by Moody.

Actions (Follow-Up)	Person responsible	Deadline
Minutes need to include comments sent by J.McHale	Wei Guan will resend McHale’s email to Steve Lange who will resend revised minutes for approval	Senate members will approve by email vote within a week of having received the revised minutes
Senate members need to have all	Steve Lang	Senate members will approve the forms by

Award rubrics to approve them		email vote within a week of having received them
T&P guidelines	Senate members	Did we have a vote about waiting until after the Strategic Plan was completed?

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20PM.