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USFSP Faculty Senate Meeting : 2015 : 03 : 13 : Minutes

University of South Florida St. Petersburg. Faculty Senate.

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University of South Florida St. Petersburg
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2015
Bayboro 220

Called to order: 1:35 p.m.

I. Recognition of Members and Alternatives

Present: Deanna Michael, Dan Marlin, Wei Guan, Steve Lang, Deb Henry, Ella Schmidt,
Regrets: Mark Pezzo

II. Recognition of Guests

Dean Carol Hixson; Dean Bill Heller; RC Sophia Wisniewska, Interim RVCAA Mark Durand

III. Approval of Agenda

Deanna added one item under New Business: Outstanding Student Award
Wei Guan moved to approve the agenda, Steve Lang 2nd, all approved

IV. Approval of Minutes from February meeting - **Tabled**

V. Administrative Reports and discussions –

RC Sophia Wisniewska:

- Kudos to those involved in the “World of Fairs.” There were over 1000 attendees, lots of new faces, and response was positive on the programming
- At the Foundation meeting, the purchase of land owned by the Poynter Institute was approved.
- The COB Dean search is moving forward, search committee was conducting interviews at airport. They hope to bring in 3-5 candidates in April for on-campus interviews.
- Strategic Planning: meeting with goal champions to assess progress.
- System Task Force: These meeting continue and all are welcome to attend.
- USFSP staff are moving into the former Gulf Coast Legal Services building; staff includes several groups.
- Helen Levine is in Tallahassee, networking for COB building funding.
- Administrators met a second time with the mayor and Pinellas school system administrators to consider a “demonstration school.”

RVCAA Mark Durand:

- Invitations will go out soon to potential T&P Review Committee members.
- The Retention Task Force met, are analyzing data on student success, QEP progress, and identifying problem areas. They hope to provide faculty with some solutions to recommend to students to help. Some discussion followed including expectations of students and incidences of mental illness issues on campus. Student services is working on some of that and are under-

sourced right now. Students wanted to raise fees to have more counselors available but raising fees overall is not viewed favorably by state government officials.

Questions from the Senate:

- Disposition of discretionary money? Sophia will look into it or have Joe Trubacz do so.
- Length of appointment of interim RVCAA? Dr. Durand will serve until a new person is hired.

VI. Bishop Center move to Academic Affairs – Dr. Bill Heller, Director of the Bishop Center and Dean of College of Education

Bill introduced the organizational history of center and provided a handout of information. He explained the investment strategy for the Center and the funding generated. The Center was created within the College of Educations and after a few years was reassigned to Academic Affairs. Later, the center was placed in the College of Arts & Sciences. The director of the Center reports to the Dean of the college in which it is located. Bill pointed out that when affiliated with a college, the center struggled to find additional funding and staff positions to support its teaching and outreach activities. Sometimes this resulted in lost opportunities, (people, grants, etc.) Since ethics is cross-disciplinary, the Center deserves a stable home where it can receive the attention it needs without competing with individual college needs. Consequently, Bill wanted to notify the Senate that he is recommending that the Center be place directly under the Academic Affairs umbrella. Course credits earned will be reported by the college home of whoever serves as the current director. Bill shared that enrollment in ethics courses is going well and new courses seem to be well received.

Question from the Senate:

Is anything needed from the Senate? Issues like this should come before the Senate as a point of awareness as this affects faculty and curriculum changes. Dr. Heller would like the Senate's support in this move.

VII. Guest speaker Dean Carol Hixson, Poynter Library

Dean Hixson distributed a packet of information that addressed the Senate's questions involving Distance Learning (DL) here at USFSP. The questions had been given to the Dean in advance in order to prepare for the meeting. Prior to the review of the information, Dean Hixson recommended that the Director of DL meet once a semester with the Senate in order to address any questions that might arise.

The Dean provided a brief history of the organizational structure and reporting lines of the program, which is currently housed in Poynter Library. In the absence of a DL Director, Dean Hixson currently serves as the accountable officer. Carol stressed that all procedures, guidelines, and practices comply with guidelines set by the *Florida Distance Learning Task Force* and with the State of Florida definitions for DL. She reiterated that the types of online courses, quality issues, etc. are completely up to faculty.

The summary addressed DL fee collection and acceptable use of those fees (e.g. equipment purchases, advertising of DL courses and program, etc.), professional development opportunities for faculty, the formula used for the distribution of DL money to the colleges, communication strategies, and services offered. With regard to services, Carol stressed that "Walk-in" or "On-demand" service is

no longer feasible as the online learning department is a small one, trying to serve a large community. The report also outlined the progress to date for services for DL students.

Dean Hixson clarified that the current DL Steering Committee deals with operational issues. The new Senate DL Committee would deal with academic content and concerns. Right now there is little cross over. Dr. Durand added that the charge of the steering committee is accountability and transparency. A search for DL Director is on hiatus because of the recent leadership change.

Deanna thanked Carol for all the information. There were a couple of additional questions and discussion relating to DL trends, student preferences for online and f2f courses, and academic honesty concerns. (For a more detailed account of the report, see Summary_report_DL_Hixson_201503.)

VIII. Action Items:

- A. Membership on the Campus T & P committee; timeline for completion – Dr. Durand addressed this in his remarks.
- B. Senate DL Committee – **Tabled for next meeting**
- C. Future guest, Regional Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Dr. Gardiner “Tuck” Tucker

Executive Session:

VII. Old Business:

- A. Strategic Planning group Faculty Excellence progress – report has been made Indiana U has a nice handbook; made service decisions based on research.
- B. Curriculum development - **Tabled**

VIII. Tabled Items: NA

IX. New Business: **all but D is tabled**

- A. Faculty Conduct Policy in the Dean’s council Meeting/Healthy Work Environment Policy - **tabled**
- B. Academic Affairs Strategic Planning White Paper - **tabled**
- C. Request for subcommittee on how IT impacts research at USFSP - **tabled**
- D. Administrative Survey
Senators reviewed the survey questions, revising language. Deb provided a revision of the description of the Library Dean’s areas of responsibility. Deanna will send out a draft of a cover letter for review.
- E. Outstanding Student Award – Please review applications and send scoring sheets to Deanna no later than March 22. Email is fine.

Deanna presented a resolution from COE College Council:

The COE College Council resolves that the process of filling the RVCAA position proceed through an open search which would include external applicants.

A question about Sabbatical requirements arose with regard to teaching.

X. Reports:

- A. System Faculty Council – Deanna Michael and Steve Lang

B. UFF – Steve Lang

Steve quickly reported that the intellectual property committee consists of 4-5 faculty, 4-5 administrators, and general counsel. They are looking for a policy that would be compatible with the new contract. Steve will keep the Senates informed. There are lots of items under discussion with regard to ownership.

The committee on teaching evaluations is also working. Ella questioned if there should there be a minimum of return rate before student evaluations are considered in a T&P process? A lot of money is spent on the entire evaluation process and neither faculty nor administrators are happy with some of the “data” generated.

Dates for Future Meetings -

- April 3, 2015 1:30 PM Bayboro 220
- May 1, 2015 1:30 PM Bayboro 220

Adjourned: 3:50 pm

Respectfully submitted:
Deborah Henry