

Faculty Senate Minutes

Friday, March 22, 2013

University Center 206

PRESENT: Peter Cashel-Cordo, Ethel Elkins, Brandon Field (Acting Chair), Adrian Gentle, Garret Merriam, Kristalyn Shefveland, Maria Shirey, Frank Ward, Jennifer Williams, and Steven Williams; *Ex Officio members*, Ronald Rochon (Provost), Shelly Blunt (Interim Assistant Provost).

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Peter Cashel-Cordo made a motion to approve the amended minutes of the March 1, 2013 meeting. Jennifer Williams seconded. The minutes were approved with three abstentions.

UPDATE FROM THE PROVOST'S OFFICE:

- Campus Budget Hearings: Dr. Ronald Rochon thanked faculty for their collaborative work with the campus community, especially Administrative Senate and Staff Council, which helped make the new budget process successful.
- State Budget Hearings: Rochon reported that President Linda Bennett presented the University's budget request in Indianapolis, and the reaction was positive. In response to a question, Rochon indicated that a tuition increase has not been explored at this stage. The University expects the final state budget in May or June.
- Conditional Reappointment: Rochon indicated that the intent of conditional reappointments is to support faculty members by providing more extensive and more frequent feedback from their peers, chair and dean. Following initial research by Interim Assistant Provost Blunt, Rochon has charged the Promotions Committee with recommending a policy and handbook language to clarify the purpose and use of conditional reappointments.
- Gender equity: Provost Rochon was asked for a status report on the inquiry into gender equity on campus, and Rochon reported that a committee led by Interim Assistant Provost Blunt and Donna Evinger, Director of Human Resources, has conducted a preliminary investigation and that an outside consultant would be hired for the next stage of data analysis. Senators indicated frustration that existing faculty expertise is often overlooked when external consultants are hired, and the expense of external consultants is difficult to justify while simultaneously claiming there is no money to address equity issues.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Nominations for At-Large seats on Senate and Standing Committees: Senators noted that few nominations had been received, and several other issues have arisen, including confusion in the College of Business over which positions were open. Faculty in the Pott College indicated a desire for the University-wide At-Large elections be held after the college elections to enable faculty to be nominated At-Large if they are unsuccessful in the college elections.

The following nominations have been received:

- Julie Evey: At-Large Faculty Senator
- Eric McCloud: At-Large member of the Grievance Committee

Peter Cashel-Cordo motioned that nominations be reopened for At-Large representatives on Faculty Senate, and the Student Affairs, and Grievance and Hearing Committees, with nominations due by close of business on April 4th. Motion was carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- New Program Review Process: Field announced that the New Program Review Process will be considered at a future Senate meeting.

- 360 Review of President Bennett: Field announced that the Board of Trustees have initiated a 360 degree review of President Bennett's performance, and indicated that Faculty Senate has been asked to participate. Field indicated that the Board had hired an external consulting group to conduct the review, and that the Past Chair, Adrian Gentle, would meet one-on-one with Dr. Stephen Portch, the external consultant, and the Senate Executive group – Brandon Field (Vice-chair), Mary Hallock Morris (Secretary) and Gentle – would take part in a separate focus group with Dr. Portch. An open session will also be held for faculty and staff to contribute directly to the process.

After indicating that the Board of Trustees intended this as the first in a regular and professional review process for the President, Provost Rochon and Interim Assistant Provost Blunt departed. A broad discussion then took place in which Senators discussed the position that members of the Senate Executive should adopt during the review process.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: The senate adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: April 12th 2013, from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. in University Center 206.

Submitted:

Adrian Gentle

Acting Secretary, Faculty Senate