

Faculty Senate Minutes
Friday, November 14, 2014
UC206

Meeting called to order: 3:00

Present: Jason Fertig, Joanne Artz, Cindy DeLoney-Marino, Rex Strange, Tony Maria, Jason Fertig, Rob Millard-Mendez, Marilyn Ostendorf, Matthew Hanka, Julie Evey, Jessica Garcés Jensen, Jennifer Williams, Ethel Elkins, Peggy Shields, Gabriela Mustata Wilson, Kindra Strupp, Linda Bennett, Ron Rochon, Shelly Blunt

- 1. Approval of minutes from October 17, 2014:** Rex made the motion; Cindy seconded. Approved with two corrections: a) clarification of Zane Mitchell's suggestion that Assessment Committee participate in program review (section 3, Report from Ron Rochon, third bullet; and b) revision of Rex's concerns relating to a survey to investigate faculty perception of faculty governance (section 5, Old Business.... bullet ten). Approved with two abstentions.
- 2. Report from Linda Bennett:**
 - On hearing that a faculty morale survey initiated three years ago came up during a Senate discussion, Linda wanted to make sure that the record was straight. She objected with the process because parts of the survey solicited information relating to specific people that should not be made public. Reviews of personnel go to supervisors, not committees.
 - In response to complaints regarding Early Alert, this is not a new policy. Midterm grades have been around for a long time. The perception that decisions relating to this policy were made without input from faculty is wrong: a committee that included a group of faculty assembled by Stephen Spencer was involved in the process over the summer. Jason was aware of the proceedings, but Faculty Senate was not more involved because of the timing. If Faculty Senate is interested in establishing a "Senate Executive Committee" to work in the summer, we can talk about a stipend.
- 3. Report from Kindra Strupp:**
 - Kindra was going to report on a new media policy for USI employees, but do to a miscommunication, will have to come back for our next Senate meeting.
- 4. Report from Jason Fertig:**
 - At the recent Board of Trustees meeting, three international students delivered a message of gratitude for the opportunity to pursue education at USI. In addition, the Board approved renovations of the PAC.
 - The Student Affairs Committee is soliciting feedback from students in UNIV 101 regarding their perceptions of the Early Alert system.
- 5. Report from Ron Rochon:**
 - Ron Rochon is working on strategies for academic recovery for freshmen in trouble (e.g. failing UNIV 101). Beginning next semester, a 5-week session focused on study skills, communicating with faculty, etc... will be available to students.

6. Old Business: Charge “to focus on the appropriate level of faculty governance, the relationship between administration and faculty....”.

- Jason and Cindy submitted a draft of the survey (to solicit faculty perception regarding faculty governance) for discussion and input. Following lengthy discussion, Jason agreed to implement suggestions and provide us with another draft at the next Senate meeting.

7. New Business: new charge to “explore the possibility of starting an AAUP Chapter on campus.”

- Jason pointed out that this charge from a faculty member of the Pott College was submitted anonymously, and that no desired outcome was stated.
- Peggy mentioned that anonymous charges were not accepted in the past.
- After discussion, the general consensus was that this is not really a charge – anyone can look in to starting an AAUP chapter at AAUP.org.
- Jennifer pointed out that the background section makes reference to Early Alert and administrative policy-making without faculty input, suggesting that the issuer’s concerns are in line with those of the previous charge’s issuer – faculty governance.
- After discussion, it is agreed that the faculty governance survey that we are working on addresses this charge, as well.
- Jennifer made a motion that, in order to communicate to the anonymous issuer, the senators from Pott College communicate to their constituents that this charge was received and discussed at Faculty Senate, and that in its current form the charge cannot be acted on. Matt seconded; one abstention.

8. Closing Comments:

- Jason suggested that we think about whether all charges need to have a name attached, at least at the college level, in order to be considered.
- Rex made a motion to close. Unanimous approval.

Meeting was adjourned: 4:55.

Respectfully submitted by: T. Maria