

Faculty Senate Minutes
Friday, April 24, 2015
BEC 3024

Meeting called to order: 2:05

Present: Jason Fertig, Rex Strange, Tony Maria, Matthew Hanka, Ethel Elkins, Gabriela Mustata Wilson, Cindy DeLoney-Marino, Peggy Shields, Ron Rochon, Julie Evey, Alisa Holen, Mary Kay Arvin, Mikel Hand, Peter Cashel-Cordo, Rich Bennett, Tom McDonald, Chuck Conaway

- 1. Approval of minutes from April 10, 2015:** Rex motioned; Matt seconded; unanimous approval.

- 2. Report from Jason Fertig, Faculty Senate Chair:**
 - Update on the charge to archive Faculty Senate Documents: a student worker has been hired to assist Jennifer Green through the summer.

- 3. Faculty Senate Subcommittee reports:**
 - Peter Cashel-Cordo presented the Faculty and Academic Affairs report, addressing the “Data Collection on Hiring Practices” charge. The committee compiled data going back ten years, and recommended making this an ongoing effort. Jason asked if we wanted to make this a standing charge for the Faculty and Academic Affairs committee. Rex made a motion to accept the report and to make the Data Collection on Hiring Practices a standing charge. Peggy seconded; unanimous approval.
 - Rich Bennett presented the Economic Benefits Committee report, focusing on the charge to compare faculty salaries and benefits to those of peer institutions. The committee recommended that the University review the fact that USI salaries are below average for all ranks, except instructors. The committee also pointed out that AAUP data will no longer be freely available from The Chronicle of Higher Education, and recommended that the University pay to maintain access to this high quality database. Rex made a motion to approve the Economic Benefits report as well as their suggestion to maintain the use of AAUP data for all future reports.
 - The Economic Benefits Committee also investigated pay equity between gender and race, working with Shelly Blunt, Donna Evinger, and Simpson Consulting. Simpson has generated a report indicating that they see no concerns, and recommending continued monitoring.
 - Jason Fertig presented the remaining committee reports:
 - Faculty Awards for Service, Teaching and Research Committee: seven awards granted.
 - University Promotion Committee: sixteen applicants to associate professor and six applicants to full professor.
 - Student Affairs Committee report: in addition to scholarship and award selection, the committee addressed the charge to survey students as a means to improve the Early Alert system.
 - Assessment Committee: analysis of data collected in a survey administered in spring 2015 resulted in a number of recommendations regarding the academic program review process.

- Curriculum Committee: report summarizes the proposals considered and moved forward to the provost. The request for defining tracks, concentrations, etc., has been moved to the next academic year due to workload. Peggy commented that we should watch to be sure that this issue is addressed next year. Jason agreed.
- Rex made a motion to bundle all of these committee reports for a single vote of approval. Mikel seconded; unanimous approval.
- Gabriella commented on the heavy workload handled by the Curriculum Committee, and wondered how we might help. Jason suggested that we make streamlining the curriculum proposal process a Senate item next year. Matt motioned; Ethel seconded; unanimous approval.

4. Ongoing Business: Faculty Senate in the summer

- At the last meeting, Senate approved formation of an executive committee of six, consisting of the out-going Chair, in-coming Chair, and a Senate representative from each of the colleges (and/or his or her designee). Peggy wondered whether four members might be sufficient if the two chairs were from different colleges.
- Jason suggested that we commit to a first meeting with Dr. Rochon early in the summer and then work out the details subsequently. Rex made a motion to commit to a first meeting with the provost. Cindy seconded; unanimous approval.

5. Report from Provost's Office: Dr. Ron Rochon

- Ron is optimistic that enrollment looks good for next fall, and suggested that improvement of the orientation process has been fruitful.

6. Report from Rex Strange on the ad hoc promotion and tenure committee:

- Rex stressed that the future of the University Promotion Committee needs to be resolved.
- Peter indicated that the ad hoc committee is reaching consensus on the P&T process, but has not yet focused on the fate of the University Promotion Committee.
- Rex indicated that we should be ready to discuss this issue at the Faculty Senate retreat.
- Jason pointed out that the terms of all the University Promotion Committee members were up simultaneously, resulting in a group of newly elected members that will also reach the end of their terms simultaneously. We need to make some changes to effect a staggered term process. This could be achieved by shortening the term of the CoB, Pott College, and one at-large member, which would align with the schools requiring elections next year.
- Rex made a motion to change the term to one year for newly elected representatives from the College of Business, Pott College, and one of the two at-large positions. Peggy seconded the motion. Cindy opposed; Alisa abstained; the rest approved. Jason indicated that he would contact these representatives.

7. Closing Comments:

- Jason indicated that he will summarize ongoing Senate in preparation for the Senate retreat.
- Cindy commented that it would be helpful for "alternate" representatives to attend the retreat.
- Cindy made a motion to elect Rex Strange as Chair of Faculty Senate for 2015-2016. Julie seconded; unanimous approval.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by: T. Maria