Adjunct Faculty Committee Minutes for 4/13/2012
Minutes recorded by Campbell

Members present: Conroy, Eixmann, Ross, Smith, Campbell, Kovar, Webb, Ligon, Eaton, Okere, Dorman, Banta, Wilburn, Huebner, Betros, McVey

Meeting called to order at approximately 3:30 by Conroy

Announcements:
1. Provost’s comments on the possibility of Development Leave for non tenure-track faculty – a strong positive reaction was voiced by committee members in terms of this being a valuable opportunity for course and research development. Conroy commented that according to the enabling legislation up to 6% of university faculty could be on leave at any one time. A suggestion was made that the committee be proactive in suggesting revisions to current policy to accommodate inclusion of adjunct faculty – McVey and Okere tasked with this. Career ladder for non tenure-track faculty (non tenure-track faculty moving into tenure-track positions) has also recently been mentioned by the Provost.

2. Committee Charge statement from Faculty Senate presented

Committee agenda items:
1. Previous minutes (2/10) up for approval (Webb seconded) and unanimously approved.
2. Discussion on committee title tabled
3. A secretary, Suzy Okere, was self-nominated, seconded (Campbell) and unanimously approved.
4. A vice chair, Walter Dorman, was self-nominated, seconded (Huebner) and unanimously approved.
5. One more liaison needed from CLAS in College of Education.
6. Lecturers listed as staff – some lecturers with additional capacities (such as advising) are listed as staff, a call to be thorough and include these folks when communicating with constituents.

Discussion items:
1. Should committee TRACS site include all adjuncts in the role of “guest”? It was decided that any adjunct wishing to join the site as a guest could do so, and that it is committee members’ responsibility to guide those adjuncts to Valerie, who will manage adding people to the TRACS site. All adjuncts will, however, be listed under their College TRACS site.
2. Survey Questions (Sherri Mora absent) – Conroy opened discussions by asking if we were measuring perceptions, or policies and practices. There was consensus that it was practices that were to be researched. There was a discussion of whether the first two questions of the survey would be useful. Issues that came up when considering this: defining “work load,” the aegis of departmental vs. University-wide PPS. Would it help to have all information in one place – or would this shake up/disturb order in departments/schools? Differences between lectureship and senior lectureship, what constitutes scholarly work/service work? Are there written policies that lay out departmental procedures for hiring adjunct (if so, what are they)? The role of personnel committees in evaluation; what is role of this committee, and where do we want to focus our energies? Ultimately, discussion of the questions was tabled until next meeting.
3. It was suggested by Conroy to focus on a couple of targeted tasks: she suggested development leave and ways in which the Presidential Awards would best serve to bring recognition to adjunct faculty. Rebecca Eaton volunteered to set up a forum on TRACS for a discussion of Presidential Awards.
4. Should we expand number/time of meetings? It was agreed that meetings will now be held monthly and will be two hours in duration to be more productive.
5. In response to Beth Wuest’s query re: faculty development opportunities for adjuncts: Could workshops for tenure-track faculty be opened up to adjuncts as well? More access to webinars – meetings posted through development office? To have Senior Lecturers mentor other adjuncts (this would count as service). It was decided to keep asking for more input.
6. Date of next meeting. Friday May 18, 2012, 2:00-4:00 in JCK Room 880.

Adjourned at 4:32.