Faculty Advisory Council
Minutes of Meeting 10-21-2005

In attendance: Steve Awoniyi, Michael Boone, Judy Leavell (for Maria de la Colina), Jo Weber, Gwynne Ash, Annie Brooks, Steve Furney, Jennifer Battle, Steve Gordon, Bobby Patton, Tinker Murray.

Absent: Shana Pate, Maria de la Colina, Sarah Nelson

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Steve Gordon.

I. Change in the Department of C & I.
Dean Rosalinda Barrera was in attendance at the meeting. She announced the change in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. The Dean announced that Dr. Marianne Reese resigned her position as Chair of C & I by mutual agreement between the two of them. There is a transition team in place to handle the chair’s duties while an internal search is conducted to name a new chair. The positions of the Associate Deans of the college will be filled first. Dean Barrera expects that the new Chair will be in place by January along with an Associate Chair and possibly an Assistant Chair. Dean Barrera also mentioned that this was not a rash decision or a unilateral decision, but that guidance was provided by the Provost. Jo Weber also added that the Dept. of C & I was functioning well despite the resignation of the Chair.

II. Associate Dean Positions.
The Dean went on to discuss the full time positions for Associate Deans. These job descriptions have been approved by the Associate VP and by Equity and Access. These two full-time passions will be for 4 year terms that include teaching one course per semester. The Dean will try to get a course release for the first semester of service. The jobs are defined as full time during the summer with a 12 month contract. The Dean will inquire about the salary increments and the “step-down” procedure and policy.

III. Restructuring and Reorganization of the College.
Extensive discussion took place concerning the reorganization of the college. Dean Barrera described a structure in which 5 Executive Officers are parallel in power and are charged with making decisions. These five include the two Associate Deans and the three Chairs of the departments that make up the college. Discussion also focused on the structure of the committees in the college. Personnel committees play an active role in the matters of each department and will help run the departments. Steve Gordon pointed out that the personnel committees make personnel decisions. The entire faculty, consisting of tenured and tenure-track faculty, is charged with running a department according to written policy at Texas State in the Faculty Handbook. Further discussion focused on the role of the College Council vs. the role of the Faculty Advisory Council. The Dean stated that in her mind the College Council should be an elected body from each department, and not with the Faculty Senate members. She feels it should be an elected body. The Dean wants to streamline the structure and organization of the college rather than adding more layers to the governance of the college.

One FAC member brought up the issue of Assistant Professors being shoved aside with the adjuncts in matters of the college. The Dean underscored the importance of
mentoring for the Assistant Professors and agreed we need to involve assistant professors as much as possible while protecting new faculty from too much work. The Faculty Advisory Council complicates the issues because the Dean wants to eliminate any redundant committees. The Dean invited more discussion of the role the FAC can play as changes are made in the college. She is offering the possibility to see the role of FAC in a new way.

IV. **Approval of the minutes from last meeting.**
The minutes of the meeting were approved and will be posted on the website.

V. **Discussion of COE reorganization and the future role of the FAC.**
There was ample discussion of what we might see in the future for this committee. These are the suggestions that emerged from our discussion:

- We need to communicate to the Dean the good works and positive feelings of the FAC.
- We need to revisit what the FAC is doing that is absolutely necessary for the college.
- We need to make a plan and make it explicit to the Dean and the COE faculty so that everyone understands the relevance of the FAC.
- We need to make a recommendation or proposal that satisfies our needs as faculty for shared governance, and also figure out what the Dean wants/needs.
- One faculty member mentioned that the Dean is offering us a bigger place at the table.
- Share the history and the constitution of the FAC with the Dean.
- Stress that we can help the Dean do her work. Make ourselves available to her.
- A subcommittee was named to think about and perhaps draft a proposal. The members selected for this committee are: Annie Brooks, Steve Awoniyi, and Gwynne Ash.

The discussion of the T&P document with the Dean was postponed for a future meeting. Chair Steve Gordon adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Battle
Vice-Chair, Faculty Advisory Council