

October 12, 2011 Minutes

Members present: Sanders, Wilson, Stone, Morey, Feakes, Hindson, Walker (for Furney), Czyzewska, Cavitt, Melzer, Conroy, Ash, Winek

Guests: Sigler, Brown, Spellmann, Supancic, McKenzie (*Star*), Peeler, McGee

Meeting called to order at 4:00.

Announcements:

1. On October 10 an email was sent to non-tenure-track faculty surveying their interest in serving on the Senate's new Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Committee. As of October 12, there has been a very large positive response.
2. Following up on the October 5 report from the University Lecturers Committee, the Chair investigated where funds for various Senate Committees are housed. Most arise from student service fees that are allocated to Colleges who oversee the Committee accounts. Since the Senate is not the account manager for such accounts, it has not been notified when the Student Service Fee Committee hears requests for additional funds. The Chair has submitted a request for a one-time increase of \$3000 for the University Lecturers Committee this cycle.

Faculty Senate Sub-Committee Charge: Chairs Supancic and Peeler, of the University Curriculum Committee and Academic Standards Committee respectively, visited with the Senate to discuss the Senate's charge that their Committees examine several relevant PPS documents to explore the procedures they outline for processing curriculum proposals that are rejected. In particular, the Senate is interested in whether there is a policy on proposals not originating in departments. The Senate wants to insure that faculty maintain ownership of the University curriculum, and that the PPS documents reflect that ownership. Additionally, the Senate asked that the Committees explore where changes to the General Education core originate.

The Chair of the UCC noted that rejections of proposals by the Committee were rare, and asked whether the UCC should even consider proposals not originating in departments.

The Sub-Committee will report its findings at a future Senate meeting.

Budget Committee: The Senate discussed with Chair Spellmann potential charges for the Budget Committee over the coming months. Among possible topics raised were examining how seed money allocated for new programs is being maintained, and investigating the actual expenses for new programs compared with funds requested in the proposals. The Senate asked the Committee to first explore how closely actual 2011 University expenditures matched the proposed budget; more particularly, the Committee should examine how the Provost allocates the funds he receives.

PAAG Agenda Development: The next PAAG meeting takes place on October 19.

Among issues the Senate may suggest to the President are the following:

1. An update on the Capital Campaign.
2. A discussion of plans for educating the University community on safety procedures.
3. An update on the University budget, focusing in particular on new faculty lines and the impact of the staff hiring freeze.

BREAK

University College and PACE: New Dean of University College and the PACE Center, Dr. Dann Brown, shared with the Senate a number of projects and goals for the PACE Center in the coming months. Dean Brown explained that the main focus of PACE is to support the fundamental goals of undergraduate education through curricular and co-curricular efforts. It is important to connect with students individually even as the University grows; Brown noted that they are planning for some 5000 first-year students next year.

Academic Advising: The Center will hire fourteen new advisors for next fall, who will work alongside the six assigned to the University College. The Center is hiring three new advisors every three months so they can be trained effectively. In addition, there is now an online program, Bobcat Scheduler, that allows students to register online for advising. As well, the Center will develop “virtual advising portfolios” for students that will follow them as they move into their majors.

Mentoring: The Dean is about to hire a Mentoring Coordinator, among whose duties will be insuring that students are connected to their academic homes. The Coordinator will also coordinate campus activities to engage students, as well as activities that connect students and alumni.

University Seminar: 250 sections will be offered next fall. This semester, roughly 400 students were unable to enroll in University Seminar, even with class size raised to 27 per section. The goal for next year is 20 students per section. The Senate asked how faculty will be recruited and selected to teach the courses, with the Dean assuring Senators that instructors meet SACS guidelines. The Dean explained that the goal of the University Seminar is to offer students opportunities for self-assessment and to show them how their interests can lead to several different careers.

Faculty Liaison Program: The Dean noted the nature of the liaison position was the least well-defined in the QEP, and so the concept is still under development. He has created a job description and will call for nominations and applications after Thanksgiving. Each College will nominate two faculty. Among the tasks to be performed by liaisons will be serving as leaders in their Colleges on implementing PACE initiatives, serving as PACE resource for faculty in their Colleges, and collaborating with the Mentoring Coordinator to identify activities for engaging students. The Dean plans to work with liaisons to develop a policy

and procedures manual for future liaisons. Faculty who apply for the positions should be committed to undergraduate education, have experience in teaching introductory courses and / or in mentoring undergraduate students, and should be tenured or tenure-track faculty. Compensation for liaison positions is still being decided, but will likely be workload credit.

Building: Dean Brown expects the new PACE Center building will be completed in April 2012, and that it will take some 4-6 weeks to install furniture. He anticipates the building to be ready for occupancy at the beginning of June 2012.

New Business:

1. The Provost is creating a task force to explore the nature of and reward for service at the University, with members to include Senate representatives. The Chair asked that those volunteering to serve advocate for the Senate's position that service is a faculty responsibility but also that the University must find ways to reward service in merit cycles and in decisions on tenure and promotion.
2. The Senate will meet with faculty liaisons on November 9 in Alkek 105.
3. A Senator reiterated there seems to be little visibility or consistency in enacting the policy for purchasing art for new buildings. The Chair will research the policies governing this process.
4. A Senator asked that the Chair urged the University to post the Spring 2012 Final Examination schedule before registration begins on October 17.

Minutes of 10/5/11 were approved.

Adjournment.