

November 9, 2011 Minutes

Members present: Morey, Stone, Furney, Sanders, Wilson, Melzer, Hindson, Feakes, Ash, Kimmel, Conroy, Winek

Guests: Sigler, Senate liaisons

Meeting called to order at 4:00.

Faculty Workload: Senators and liaisons discussed whether their departments had or were finalizing workload policies, and also how their departments assigned workload credits for activities fulfilled by faculty during summer sessions.

Among other issues raised by the liaisons were the following:

1. **Course Preparation:** the new model for assigning workload credits allows department to make judgments regarding the amount of credit for such efforts as preparing to teach a new course, teaching very large classes without sufficient support, etc. However, all policies will need to be approved by the Dean and the Provost.
2. **Assessing quality of publications:** only a few liaisons noted that their departments had tables for assessing the quality of journals in which faculty scholarship is published.
3. **Teaching required courses in summer:** A liaison noted that some faculty must teach summer courses because the courses are required by particular degree programs. He wondered if workload credits could be shifted to account for this need? Currently, the administration does not allow workload in the long semesters to be shifted to summer teaching.

Task Force – Friday & Saturday class scheduling and campus use: The Chair shared with liaisons that the Provost is creating a task force to explore the possibility of offering classes on Fridays and Saturdays, and polled them to see how many departments are already offering Saturday classes. Four departments are currently scheduling classes on Saturday. Among the issues that the Senate and liaisons encouraged the Task Force to explore are the ways the proposed schedule would affect day-care needs of faculty; the ways faculty would be selected to teach such classes; the effect on faculty attendance at professional conferences, which often take place on weekends; and whether workload credit could be assigned for teaching such courses, as it can be for teaching service courses.

BREAK

Adjunct Faculty Committee: The Chair described the goals and make-up of the Senate's new Adjunct Faculty Committee, asking that liaisons inform their adjunct faculty colleagues and encourage them to share any concerns with the Committee, which will meet once a semester and be chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Senate.

Single-Use Textbooks: The Senate has previously discussed that some departments are assigning in core courses texts that cannot be resold, thereby making it necessary for

students to purchase new texts rather than less-expensive used copies. Generally these single-use texts are connected to online homework exercises and exams owned by the textbook publisher and that require a user code active for only a certain length of time – one semester or a year. A few liaisons noted that their departments did use such texts, but that often they are bound more cheaply than traditional hard cover editions and so save students money. Others, however, doubted whether single-use textbooks were actually less costly than traditional textbooks.

Some liaisons also expressed concern that the University Bookstore discourages faculty from assigning older, and therefore less-expensive, editions of textbooks. As the State Legislature examines textbook costs, the University may need to revisit such policies.

New Business from Senate Liaisons:

1. Concerns were raised about the new option on the Banner System that allows students to list “incompatibility with faculty” as their reason for withdrawing from a course. The Chair reported that there are plans for changing the wording, and requested suggestions for wording that would not unfairly imply faculty as the cause of students dropping courses.
2. Continuing a discussion initiated at a previous Senate meeting, the Chair noted that the University is examining safety procedures and faculty roles in those procedures. Liaisons were encouraged to share any insights and concerns they have about the process.
3. A department has asked to use the student evaluations required by HB2504 as its sole source of faculty evaluation. There are also renewed discussions about offering the evaluations online. In addition, a liaison wondered whether the results of the HB2504 evaluations should be used in tenure and promotion deliberations. The Chair reiterated that the subcommittee tasked with developing the evaluations was very clear in its belief that these evaluations should never be used for any other purpose than fulfilling the requirements of the Bill, nor should they be conducted online.

Committee Representation: Nominations for several committees will be finalized at the next Senate meeting. A Senator agreed to serve on the committee for assigning Development Leave Supplemental Grants.

New Business:

1. The Senate was awarded a one-time grant of \$3,000 from the Student Service Fee Committee to supplement funds appropriated to the University Lecturers Committee.
2. The Honors College was approved by the Coordinating Board.
3. A Senator reported that an Academic Program Review urged a department to install more first aid stations, but current policies prohibit departments from purchasing first aid supplies and state that students requiring medical attention must be sent to the Student Center.

Adjournment.