

Minutes of the Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate: March 22, 2012

In attendance: Deneen Evans, Ashlee Claud, Elizabeth McCormick, Alice Coughlin, Brent Chumbley, Tolga Durak, Karen Casteale, Robbie Davis, Stephanie Jennelle, Robbie Davis

Meeting started at 8:35 AM; February's minutes were approved.

1. Kyle updated us on what she's been doing:
 - a. Legislative session: nothing to report because the Legislature didn't create a budget; therefore, Kyle doesn't know how we'll be affected.
 - b. They put in a new request on the capital side of the RU budget that isn't on the 6-year plan but in addition to it: a building that will eliminate the trailers/"mobile units" and off-campus faculty apartment-offices; cost would be between \$65-\$70 million. Colleges/universities around the state have been asked to create proposals for capital expenses; the Legislature will pick the proposals it likes and give those colleges the money to develop and actual plan.
 - c. She met with COBE faculty this week to talk about salaries. Here she clarified what she and the BoV can and cannot do in relation to increasing salaries: they cannot do across-the-board increases because the state won't allow them because doing so affects VRS. What they can do is give merit increases to T/R faculty (if the university has the money) and equity adjustments in salary for everyone after conducting a study to find the cases of greatest disparity. COBE faculty told her that "word was" that Virginia Tech had found a way for classified staff to be reimbursed for the five percent that's being swept by the state to fund VRS. Kyle said she'd be checking on that. <my thought: if that's true and word is out already, that method won't last for long>
 - d. One attendee asked about the governor's 6-year plan for higher ed: Kyle explained that the governor wants to change how colleges are funded, making it a much different method from what we're used to (base budget adequacy) – there would be competition between schools for incentive money that has a focus on STEM, health professions, research in general, and underserved populations. The governor added health at Kyle's insistence; he maintained that STEM covered it but she wanted it to be more explicitly stated. What she doesn't know is if that incentive money has to go toward those specific areas or if it can just go into the college's general fund; they suspect it will be a mix.
 - e. McCormick asked if university administration was thinking of charging students in these high-demand areas a special fee/tuition and she said that they are. A college/department would look at specific programs that require a lot of extra supplies (like Art and Interior Design) or technology – the university pays for a lot but the students do, too. Under the fee system, the university would buy all the supplies or technology in bulk, leaving the student to pay just a flat fee to support that.
 - f. Another question: how to communicate effectively across campus that AP evaluations must be done annually and equitably. This is a project for the AP Senate. Kyle gave an example from when she first came on: she was told that there was no evaluation form, just do it however you want to, and there was no deadline. Recently, she's heard both that there is no form and that there is a form. So, she's been directly made aware that the Senate wants to work on this and get evaluations going like they should be.
 - g. Big discussion ensued after Kyle told us one of her pieces of unfinished business: diversity and leadership. By leadership she meant in the student body. Evidently, there are groups on campus which are big on student participation and leadership; they were

once quite active and invited the President to their meetings and they'd send representatives to Cabinet meetings. Lately, that hasn't been happening. So some of the alumni who were in those groups have promised to come back in the Fall to help with recruitment and Kyle will contact these current groups to find out what's going on with them.

2. AP Handbook: Margaret McManus, auditor for the university, was on hand because we'd planned to discuss her and others' comments about the revisions to the Handbook. However, by this point it was already 10AM so we essentially said the sub-committee would meet with her and Joey Sword to go over those comments.
3. AP Senate elections: these are based on the number of AP faculty per division as of March 1. Here's the current breakdown of divisions and held/empty seats:
 - a. Academic Affairs (of which the library is not counted a part, at least for this) – 130 people = 3 seats on Senate. Currently there is one empty seat and two held seats. That might turn into two empty seats but that won't be known until the end of April, if then.
 - b. Finance & Administration: 25 people = 2 seats. One seat is open.
 - c. Information Technology: 22 people = 2 seats. One seat is open.
 - d. Student Affairs: 23 people = 2 seats. One seat is open.
 - e. University Advancement: 12 people = 1 seat. That seat is currently held.
 - f. "Executive division" (this technically doesn't exist but it sort of does): I think this has 61 people = does have 3 seats. One seat is open.
 - g. Library: only get one seat, which is open.

On March 26, Deneen will send out a call for nominations for empty seats; deadline for submission is April 13. Voting will be April 18-20. Results will be announced at the Senate's next meeting on April 26.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM.