

MINUTES
2013-2014 Faculty Senate Meeting
April 10, 2014
Hurlburt Multipurpose Room

Members present: Kevin Ayers, Ian Barland, Roann Barris, Candice Benjes Small (for Jennifer Whicker), Vickie Bierman, Brad Bizzell, Jayne Bucy, Seife Dendir, Anna Devito (for James Newman), Scott Dunn (for James Collier), Eric Du Plessis, Lori Elis, Jake Fox, Kim Gainer, Kurt Gingrich, Melissa Grimm (for Monica Pazmino), Vince Hazleton, Rhett Herman, Christine Hermann, Rodrigo Hernandez, Bill Hrezo, Margaret Hrezo, Tommy Iafrate, Abhay Kaushik, Mary LaLone, Elizabeth Lanter, Laura LaRue, Douglas Mitchell, Rob Sanderl, Sandra Schneider, Susan Schoppelrey, Neil Sigmon, Kevin Smith, Andrea Stanaland, Julie Temple, Carter Turner

Members absent: Suzanne Ament, Kimberly Cole, Jason Davis, Mary Ferrari, Nadine Hartig, Emmanuel John, Prahlad Kasturi, Jerry Kopf, Charles Manyara, Laura Newsome, Mashooq Salehin, Paul Thomas, Skip Watts

Guests: Matt Brunner, Registrar; Joe Carpenter, Vice President for University Relations; Laura Jacobsen, Interim Associate Dean of the College of Graduate and Professional Studies; Joe Jones, Chair, Department of Philosophy and Religion; Penelope Kyle, President; Sam Minner, Provost

- I. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.
- II. President Kyle made some remarks regarding the status of the Dedmon Center Pool.
 - a. The Dedmon Center Pool is in need of repairs. Options will be studied before any decision is made as to whether the pool will be closed or repaired.
 - b. The decision will be made openly.
 - c. Factors that must be considered include both the cost of repairs and the cost of operating the pool.
 - d. After her remarks, President Kyle took questions and discussion ensued.
 - A faculty member asked whether current student fees support the pool. President Kyle replied that they did but that the fees that had been used to operate the pool would be reallocated to athletics.
 - Faculty asked whether the non-athletic portion of student fees could be used to operate the pool, as well as whether the proportions devoted to athletics could be reduced. In answer, President Kyle stated that the Board of Visitors makes decisions about the allocation of student fees.
 - President Kyle suggested that it might be desirable to survey people as to whether they would be willing to pay fees to use the pool.
 - A faculty member asked whether a local high school was paying fees to use the pool for practices. Mr. Carpenter confirmed that the high school does pay to use the facility.
 - A faculty member asked whether the exercise and weight room in Peters Hall were being refurbished for the use of faculty. President Kyle stated that the

facilities were being refurbished, that academic uses would have priority, but that when not used for classes the facilities would be available to the faculty.

- A faculty member thanked President Kyle for her statement about the necessity of making the decision about the Dedmon Center pool in an open manner.

III. Dr. Minner gave his report.

a. Personnel.

- Three finalists have been selected for dean of the CVPA, and one finalist would be on campus the following week.
- Thirty applications, both internal and external, have been received for the position of Director of International Education.
- Kenna Colley, Chair of the School of Teacher Education and Leadership, has been selected for the next Leadership Development Internship.
- The next Associate Dean of the College of Graduate and Professional Studies would be announced sometime during the next two weeks.

b. Admissions/Retention.

- More deposits have been paid by out-of-state students than had been received at this time last year (85 versus 74), and deposits from new freshmen as a whole are up 3%. The number of transfers are down slightly, but admissions overall are “trending very well.”
- The provost thanked faculty who participated in the recent Highlander Days held for admitted students.
- Students have been using NetTutor. March saw 730 logins, which would be the equivalent of 8% of the student body. Students logged in most often for writing assistance, followed by chemistry and math.

c. Accreditation

- The accreditation process for sociology is going well.

d. Miscellaneous/Announcements

- A forum will be held to provide an overview of assessment at RU.
- A reception will be held at McConnell Library to celebrate the opening of the Archives Reading Room and the acquisition of the George and Melody Bragg New River Coal Fields Photographic Collections, which contain rare photographs of coal extraction, including panoramic shots. RU has also acquired the still-working circuit camera used to take the panoramas.
- A reception will be held to celebrate RU authors.
- Faculty of the CSAT have received significant grants.
- RU has had a team chosen to attend the Association of American Colleges and Universities Summer Institute on High-Impact Practices and Student Success.
- A team of five McConnell librarians has been honored for publishing one of last year’s top research articles.

IV. Committee Reports.

- #### a. Campus Environment: Dr. Fox reported the administration of the faculty morale survey.

- b. Curriculum Committee: Dr. Gingrich reported that the Curriculum Committee had two motions under Old Business and would be introducing two motions under New Business.
- c. Faculty Issues: Dr. Barris reported that the FIC was in the process of rewriting a motion on online learning.
- d. Governance: Dr. Schoppelrey reported that the dean evaluations had gone out and that the committee would be bringing up a motion.
- e. Resource Allocation: Dr. Kaushik reported that the committee was addressing the issue of teaching overloads. He also reported the committee has two motions under Old Business: a Motion *re* Minimum Salaries and a Motion *re* Travel Reimbursement.

V. Old Business.

- a. A Motion *re* Veteran Transfer Credit, referred by the University Academic Policies and Procedures Committee, was taken from the table, discussed, and passed.
- b. A Motion *re* 10-Year Transfer Credit Policy, referred by the University Academic Policies and Procedures Committee, was taken from the table, discussed, and passed.
- c. A Motion to Support Creation of Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Bioethics, referred by the Curriculum Committee, was taken from the table, discussed, and passed.
- d. A Motion *re* Minimum Salaries, referred by the Resource Allocation Committee, was taken from the table, discussed, and retabled.
- e. A Motion *re* Travel Reimbursement, referred by the Resource Allocation Committee, was taken from the table, discussed, and passed.
- f. A Motion to Allow Departments to Develop Discipline-Based Alternatives to CORE 201 and CORE 202, referred by the Curriculum Committee, was introduced and tabled for later consideration.
- g. A Motion *re* Free-Expression Policy, referred by the Faculty Senate Executive Council, was taken from the table, discussed, and passed.

VI. New Business

- a. A Motion to Support Creation of Undergraduate Certificate in Web Development, referred by the Curriculum Committee, was introduced and tabled for later consideration.
- b. A Motion to Support Correction to Official Course Syllabus for CORE 102, referred by the Curriculum Committee, was introduced and tabled for later consideration.
- c. A Motion to Reconsider Motion *re* Revising the T&R Faculty Handbook to Change Composition of College Curriculum Committees, referred by the Faculty Senate Secretary, was introduced and tabled for later consideration.

- d. A Motion in Support of Full-Time Status for Students with Reduced Course Load with DRO Approval, referred by the University Academic Procedures and Policies Committee, was introduced and tabled for later consideration.

VII. Announcements

- a. Dr. Turner announced the Living Library Project and encouraged senators to participate and spread the word.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 p.m.