

MINUTES
2014-2015 Faculty Senate Meeting
August 28, 2014
Heth 022

Members present: Suzanne Ament, Kevin Ayers, Ian Barland, Vickie Bierman, Steve Corwin, Jason Davis, Lori Elis, Mary Ferrari, Jake Fox, Andrew Foy, Tim Fuhrer, Kim Gainer, Brent Harper, Vince Hazleton, Rhett Herman, Rodrigo Hernandez, Bill Hrezo, Margaret Hrezo, Prahlad Kasturi, Abhay Kaushik, Jerry Kopf, Mary LaLone, Elizabeth Lanter, Laura LaRue, Douglas Mitchell, James Newman, Laura Newsome, Monica Pazmino-Cevallos, Rob Sanderl, Sandra Schneider, Andrea Stanaland, Julie Temple, Paul Thomas, Carter Turner, Amy VanKirk, Jimmy Ray Ward, Jennifer Whicker

Members absent: Roann Barris, Brad Bizzell, James Collier, Seife Dendir, Eric Du Plessis, Valerie Leake, Mashooq Salehin, Susan Schoppelrey, Wally Scott, Skip Watts,

Guests: Mr. Richard Alvarez, Vice President for Finance and Administration; President Penelope Kyle; Provost Sam Minner

- I. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.
- II. Dr. Kopf welcomed the senators and thanked those who were able to attend the Faculty Senate retreat, held for the second year in a row. If senators feel the retreat is productive, he hopes this will be an annual event.
- III. It was moved, seconded, and approved that the agenda be amended to allow Mr. Alvarez, President Kyle, and Provost Minner to report to the Senate on recent budget developments.
 - a. Mr. Alvarez reported that the governor's office has instructed state colleges and universities to prepare spending reduction plans for FY 2015 equal to 5 % of their general fund appropriations and to prepare spending reduction plans for FY 2016 equal to 7 % of general fund appropriations. A similar directive had earlier been communicated to other state agencies. As a result of this directive, Radford University will prepare a plan to reduce spending by \$ 2.3 million for FY 2015 and \$ 3.2 million for FY 2016. RU must submit these plans to the Secretary of Education and the Department of Planning and Budgeting by September 19.
 - b. Mr. Alvarez reported that the university already has been adapting over the years to reductions in the percentage of its budget supplied by the state. The 60:40 ratio of state support versus tuition/fee revenue in effect in 2000-2001 has declined to the current 40:60 ratio. A resulting \$ 21 million gap had been bridged by increases in tuition and fees. Dr. Minner stated we should assume that the trend of reduced support from the state would continue.
 - c. Mr. Alvarez reported that this year has seen a shortfall in tuition and fees because of lower-than-expected enrollment in three categories. While targets for new freshmen were met, (1) transfer and (2) graduate enrollments were lower than expected, and (3) retention—the return of students for their sophomore year—was 74 % rather than a hoped-for 76 %. Dr. Minner stated that the enrollment goal had

been 10,000 students but that the current count is 9,865. The estimated enrollment shortfall means that this year the university must find as much as \$ 2 million worth of cuts in addition to the \$ 2.3 million it must cut in response to the reversion.

- d. Mr. Alvarez reported that in order to submit a plan to the state by September 19, the Provost and each Vice President must submit a plan for cuts by September 10. Immediate actions include freezes in hiring and nonessential travel. Dr. Minner likewise stated that immediate actions would include hiring and travel freezes.
- e. A question was asked as to whether a hiring freeze would apply to positions that have been advertised. Mr. Alvarez replied that a hiring freeze would apply to any position for which the hiring process has not reached the interview stage.
- f. A question was asked about what would be done about people who must be rehired year by year. Dr. Minner replied that such positions would have to be handled on a case-by-case basis.
- g. A question was asked about how nonessential travel would be defined. Dr. Minner stated that he would be meeting with the deans on that issue, but to him, nonessential travel might mean no funding for travel to meetings except for first-year faculty. He also stated that it was possible that the university might stop accepting applications for sabbaticals.
- h. Dr. Minner stated that the conversation *re* identifying cuts would begin at once and that the Resource Allocation Committee was invited to participate.

IV. The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.