

MINUTES
2014-2015 Faculty Senate Meeting
February 5, 2015
Heth 014

Members present: Suzanne Ament, Ian Barland, Roann Barris, Brad Bizzell, Lori Elis, Mary Ferrari, Jake Fox, Andrew Foy, Tim Fuhrer, Kim Gainer, Vince Hazleton, Rodrigo Hernandez, Bill Hrezo, Margaret Hrezo, Prahlad Kasturi, Abhay Kaushik, Jerry Kopf, Mary LaLone, Christine Mitchell, Douglas Mitchell, James Newman, Tom Pierce, George Philippi (for Monica Pazmino-Cevallos,), Sandra Schneider, Susan Schoppelrey, Neil Sigmon, Andrea Stanaland, Julie Temple, Paul Thomas, Carter Turner, Amy VanKirk, Jimmy Ray Ward

Members absent: David Allen, Kevin Ayers, Vickie Bierman, James Collier, Jason Davis, Seife Dendir, Eric Du Plessis, Brent Harper, Rhett Herman, Elizabeth Lanter, Laura LaRue, Laura Newsome, Mashooq Salehin, Rob Sanderl, Wally Scott, Skip Watts, Jennifer Whicker

Guests: Sam Minner, Provost for Academic Affairs

- I. The meeting was called to order at 3:34 p.m.
- II. The minutes for January, 22, 2015, were approved.
- III. Dr. Kopf made some remarks as to why the Faculty Senate meeting planned for January 15, 2015, was canceled. A presentation on the RU Futures Group was planned, but it had to be postponed at the last minute because it had not received approvals at all levels.
- IV. Provost Minner gave his report.
 - a. Enrollment
 - The goal for fall enrollment is 9,800 students. Budgeting is predicated on this number, a critical factor because tuition and fees are a major source of revenue. By several measures, such as completed applications and numbers of transfer and graduate students, new admissions and recruitment strategies look as if they are working.
 - b. Personnel
 - Paul Currant, Director of International Education, has taken up his position.
 - Applications for the Dean of the College of Education and Human Development are being screened. This is a national search, but no search firm has been employed; both internal and external applicants will be considered.
 - The position of the director of the Honors Academy is being advertised.
 - A national search is being conducted for an Assistant Vice Provost in High Impact Practices.
 - RU will be advertising for a Director of Career Services.

c. Budget

- Travel has been reauthorized.
- Budget rescissions are anticipated for next year.
- Cuts in Academic Affairs would come out of authorized but unfilled positions.
- Three variables will affect the university's budget: enrollment; state of the economy and resulting increases/decreases in tax receipts; and BOV decisions on tuition and fees. After these variables are clarified, the Provost will meet with the Resource Allocation Committee.
- Allocation of any new money would go to recruitment, both national and international; retention efforts, including supplemental; and support for instructional delivery, such as increases in compensation and travel money.
- Dr. Dunleavy also requested assistance with combating rumors and perpetuating a sense of "us vs. them" as it relates to faculty and administrators.

d. Discussion accompanied and followed the Provost's remarks.

- A senator asked whether there had been any increase in the number of students who did not achieve a GPA of at least 1.00. Dr. Minner stated that the number was a little higher, but that additional students had enrolled this spring had increased so that the university's net enrollment was up. In reply to a follow up question about whether admissions were up and rejections down, the Provost stated that at this stage RU rejects few students outright, instead putting some students into a deferral category. Before the admission process concludes, students in that category are revisited one by one, and a few are admitted from that pool each year. The university has also admitted around twenty students via the ACT/SAT optional route.
- A senator asked why honors contracts are still being requested by students. The Provost reported on the still evolving reform of the Honors Academy, including the recent appointment of the first faculty as Honors Academy Fellows.
- A senator asked about the request the BOV has made for data about the cost of each program. The Provost replied that a comparison is under way of the difference between what is accrued from tuition and fees minus what it costs RU to offer each program. Certain programs are low cost in comparison with other programs, such as professional and pre-professional ones, that may entail space rentals, special equipment, and higher faculty salaries. The senator followed up with a request that the data supplied to the BOV be shared with the faculty, and the Provost replied that he would check to see whether the data could be shared.

- V. Dr. Kopf, president of the Faculty Senate, gave his report.
- a. Dr. Kopf gave a brief presentation to BOV's Academic Affairs Committee. He made no presentation to the BOV as a whole but is trying to take a more active role in the conversation. In his statements to the board and to board members he has stressed the need for transparency and for making integrated, mission-driven decisions rather than ad hoc ones. [See below for slides that accompanied Dr. Kopf's report to the Faculty Senate.]
 - b. Dr. Kopf stated to the BOV that the budget should be discussed on the level of the university rather than on the level of Academic Affairs. He reported that the BOV seemed receptive to this sentiment.
 - c. He further stated in his presentation to the BOV that not all decisions should be based on financial considerations. He reported a "little bit of pushback" but felt that in general most BOV members understood his position.
 - d. He informed the BOV that the CLA had been administered, with outcomes not tied to particular careers but to skills such as critical thinking. He reported that the BOV seemed positive about the fact that the faculty had taken the initiative to have the CLA administered on at least a trial basis.
 - e. Dr. Kopf also reported that the marketing/branding group gave a report to the BOV and that its findings suggested that RU does not necessarily have to overcome negatives but must instead counter a lack of knowledge about the university. Three strengths of RU that could be emphasized are the faculty, the facilities, and the availability of opportunities, such as undergraduate research, that would not be available to students elsewhere.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Campus Environment: Dr. Newman reported that the Faculty Morale Survey would be distributed soon.
- b. Curriculum: Dr. Gainer reported that the committee had fulfilled two of its charges, had decided that no action item was appropriate for two charges, and was monitoring its remaining charge, which pertains to online courses and may become moot depending upon the outcome of the Motion re Formation of an Internal Governance Committee on Online Education. In addition, the committee has taken up some issues relevant to the Core Curriculum.
- c. Faculty Issues: Dr. Barris reported that the FIC met with Dr. Dunleavy and that it would like to meet with SGA representatives to discuss their motion on having midterm grades for all students posted in Banner. Dr. Kopf has suggested that the FIC also contact Dr. Shanley, and Dr. Barris agrees with this suggestion..
- d. Governance: Dr. Schoppelrey reported that the Motion Providing for Departmental Criteria for Promotion and Tenure would be left on the table under Old Business until the committee has met with the Provost.
- e. Resource Allocation: Dr. Kasturi reported that the committee is drafting a faculty workload policy statement.

VII. Old Business

- a. No old business was taken up. Two motions remain on the table for future action:
 - o Motion re Formation of an Internal Governance Committee on Online Education, referred by the Faculty Issues Committee.
 - o Motion Providing for Departmental Criteria for Promotion and Tenure, referred by the Governance Committee, referred by the Governance Committee.

VIII. New Business

- a. A Motion to Change the Name of the Graduate College, referred by the Graduate Affairs Committee and placed on the agenda by the FSEC, was introduced and tabled for later discussion.

IX. Announcements

- a. None.

- X. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.