

Faculty Senate Agenda
Friday December 2nd 2011
2-4pm in UC 2206

Meeting Secretary: Sid Hall

Minutes from Faculty Senate meeting on November 18th, 2011.

Update from Dr. Ron Rochon, Provost.

Update from Dr. Kent Scheller on Commission for Higher Education.

Report from Adrian Gentle, Faculty Senate Chair.

Unfinished Business

1. Tenure and Promotion
2. Update on Clinical Appointments. Dr. Nadine Coudret, Dean of Nursing and Health Prof.
3. Update on Responsible Conduct of Research. Dr. Peggy Harrel, Director of Graduate Studies.

New Business

1. Revision to BA Policy
2. Interim Reports from Standing Committees
 - a) FASTRC
 - b) Promotions Committee
 - c) Assessment Committee
 - d) Faculty Affairs Committee
 - e) Economic Benefits Committee
3. Informational: Recommendations from Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Governance
4. Charge: Changes to Grading Scale
5. Charge: Equality of Teaching Days Across Semesters
6. Set the spring schedule! **Bring your calendar**

Next Meeting: TBD.

Adjourn.

Faculty Senate Meeting December 2, 2011

Present: Ethel Elkins, Brandon Field, Adrian Gentle (chair), Sid Hall (acting secretary), Mary Hallock Morris, Sudesh Mujumdar, Marilyn Ostendorf, Brian Posler, Kent Scheller, Daria Sebastianova, Steve Williams

From the Shield: Jessie Hellmann

Call to Order: 2:00pm

Motion to approve amended minutes from 11/18/2011: Hallock Morris, seconded by Field. Motion approved with two abstentions.

Update from Scheller re: Commission for Higher Education

The CHE meets next week.

Report from the Senate Chair

- Gentle charged the Core Curriculum Council Task Force (CCCTF) with:
 1. creating a parallel proposal for what the core structure would be;
 2. creating an implementation plan for the proposal;
 3. identifying the CCCTF's place within the university structure
- The CCCTF should have its recommendation to the Faculty Senate by March 12, 2012.
- The Council of Chairs is engaged in ongoing discussion re: the role department chair service should play in considering promotion to full professor.

Unfinished Business

1. Tenure & Promotion Policy
 - Scheller noted that new language in the policy is being distributed by Scheller and Posler. Scheller also noted that this document is simply a more accurate reflection of current practice at the university, not necessarily a Faculty Senate endorsement of the policy.
 - Motion to forward the unendorsed document to the Provost's office: Field, seconded by Hallock Morris. Motion unanimously approved.
2. Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)
Dr. Peggy Harrell reported that effective January 10, 2011 the National Science Foundation required the university to develop an official policy for the ethical conduct of research in order for faculty to be eligible for NSF grants. On March 10, Harrell developed an interim policy.

Two issues:

- a. Federal regulations require that researchers conducting grant-funded projects must first receive formal training in the ethical conduct of research.
- b. Faculty are responsible for the curriculum, so they are responsible for the nine areas of knowledge consistent with the federal regulations governing research. These are detailed in a handout labeled "RCR USI Faculty Senate Meeting December 2, 2011," which Harrell distributed.
 - In addition, faculty are responsible for ensuring that any students working on grant-funded projects are also trained in the ethical conduct of research.
 - The National Institutes of Health also require that at least a portion of the training should be face-to-face. The online training program currently in

place is provided by the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI). It does not include a face-to-face component.

- An RCR committee is reviewing the adequacy of this program. The review is expected to be complete by January 2012.
- Following Harrell's announcement of her pending retirement, Provost Ron Rochon announced that Wes Durham will serve as interim director effective January 2012.

3. Update on Clinical Appointments

Nursing & Health Dean Nadine Coudret reported that twelve faculty (~20% of the N&H faculty) have applied for the new clinical track. The names have been forwarded to the Provost for consideration.

4. Update from the Provost

- Provost Ron Rochon reported that the search committee for a new Dean of Students will be convened by January 2012.
- There are few applicants in the search for a new Library Director.
- Next year's budget is likely to be flat. Rochon noted that it's still important to discuss priorities in preparation for budget decisions, although it may be unnecessary to go through "the usual process" at the department level.
- The Council of Chairs has discussed the importance of emphasizing all three areas (Teaching, Scholarship, and Service) in assessing promotion from Associate to Full Professor.
- Students academically dismissed will be removed from subsequent enrollment.
- Posler reported that the search committee for the Faculty Development position is receiving applications.
- Posler noted three changes have been approved:
 - a. Students must achieve a 1.8 GPA in order to avoid academic probation.
 - b. Transfer students will receive unassigned credits toward graduation for courses transferring in from unidentified departments.
 - c. In calculating qualification for graduation honors, all transfer credits will be included.
- Posler noted that all students academically dismissed will be removed from enrollment.

New Business

1. Revision to BA Policy

Current language suggests upper level Modern & Classical Language courses not taught in that language should not be accepted for credit toward the BA. Motion to accept the report for discussion: Field, seconded by Scheller. Motion unanimously approved. Field asked how we determine or monitor whether students are speaking "a language not their own."

2. Interim Reports from Standing Committees

a. FASTRC

Motion to accept the report: Field, seconded by Mujumdar. Motion unanimously approved.

b. Promotions Committee

Motion to accept the report: Scheller, seconded by Hallock Morris. Motion unanimously approved.

c. Assessment Committee

Motion to accept the report: Elkins, seconded by Scheller. Motion unanimously approved.

d. Faculty Affairs Committee

Motion to accept the report: Scheller, seconded by Field. Motion unanimously approved.

- Two issues:

- (1) Consideration of administrative duties in assessing the qualifications for the promotion of department chairs
- (2) Consideration of current university and college policies re: graduate teaching loads
 - FAC is in the process of contacting benchmark universities for comparable information on both issues. Their projected timeline for recommendation: February 15, 2012.

e. Economic Benefits Committee

Motion to accept report: Scheller, seconded by Field. Motion unanimously approved.

3. Recommendation from *Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Governance*

- Hallock Morris reported the committee has generated and rank ordered five options for structure re: faculty governance, now that the number of colleges has been reduced from five to four.
- Motion to accept the report: Scheller, seconded by Field. Motion unanimously approved.
- Discussion concerned how the Faculty Senate should be composed with respect to such issues as college size, Librarian representation, etc.

4. Changes to Grading Scale

Motion to accept the report: Scheller, seconded by Hallock Morris. Motion unanimously approved.

The current grading system (plusses, no minuses) is an extreme outlier in higher education. The proposal is to remove plusses from the grading system in order to eliminate the imbalance created by the absence of minuses, and address the inflated worth of a plus-grade (.5 quality point above the corresponding letter) compared to other institutions.

5. Equality of Teaching Days across Semesters

Gentle recommended tabling the charge in order to assess its accuracy.

6. Set the Spring '12 Schedule

Gentle suggested meeting during the first week of January 2012 in order to set the meeting schedule for the Spring '12 semester.

The date and time were tentatively set for Friday, January 6th at 11:30am or noon.

Meeting was adjourned at ~3:45pm.

December 31, 2011