Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes
March 5, 2013
LC 243, 3:00-5:00 pm

Present: Lyn Bennett, Mark Bracken, Kat Brown, Arlen Card, David Connelly, Karen Cushing, Pierre Lamarche, Dan McDonald, Gary Measom, Russ Thornley, Marcus Vincent, Ian Wilson, Erin Haskell

Excused or Absent: Lars Eggertsen, Matthew Holland, Elaine Tuft

- Call to order – 3:02 PM
- Approval of Minutes from February 19, 2013 Executive meeting. Minutes approved.
- VPAA – Ian Wilson
  - Legislature
    - Building Funding and Bond Issue – How do they best use the money and do they want to bond or not bond at all is the discussion.
  - Post-Tenure Policy is in Stage 2
    - Some faculty are bypassing the faculty reps and sending the comments directly to Kat Brown. This is an error in the Pipeline and is being corrected. Please let your faculty know to submit comments to the Faculty Senate Policy Chair.
  - Switch Day is being canceled and the current plan is to add minutes to the Monday night classes. Ian will check with Eva Bernfeld to see if the change can be implemented in spring 2014.
  - Spring Break schedule will be more in alignment with the fall break and ties in closer to the Alpine School District. Thanksgiving Break will now be a full week, but we have extended the end of the semester in December.
  - Commencement activities are in place and the keynote speaker is Anousheh Ansari. She is the first Iranian woman in space. Her book will be part of the Freshman Reading Program in the fall. Faculty is encouraged to submit names for proposed keynote speakers as soon as possible as the selection is done in the fall. Lyn suggested if a speaker was brought in as part of an honorarium or program, there might be funds available to pay them.
  - Jose Antonio Bowen will be the Faculty Convocation speaker in August. Faculty can access his information online. Kat is planning for faculty to be more involved in sharing best practices in the workshops.
  - President’s Cabinet will meet the Tuesday after the Legislature session ends. Faculty hiring decisions will be made at that time. Academic Affairs Council did identify some of the PBA requests that were an absolute necessity.
  - In terms of Lecturers, Ian has indicated that no lecturer positions are to be renewed at the present time. Departments need to wait until after the legislative session and cabinet meets.
• Prioritization Exercise
  o Testing Center
    ▪ David shared statistics by schools/colleges on overall faculty usage.
    ▪ The Associate Deans are working on proposals and determining what limitations might need to be in place in addition to cost containment. Specifically address the Testing Center and the functionality and efficiency.
  o Financial Concern – where does faculty want to see reductions made?
  o David will rework the list based on input from the Executive Committee in preparation to repeat the exercise.

• UVUSA
  o Elections are underway. The voting link has had a few problems. Overall gone well.

• Senate Future Discussions
  o Benefits Proposal – Mark Bracken noted the goal is to educate faculty and staff, what the benefit is to being a self-funded plan, and the healthcare trends. Ian will meet with the President to identify individuals to make presentations at Faculty Senate.
  o Service Proposal
  o Policy 638
  o Adjunct Ad hoc Committee
  o Tenure Board of Review findings (Executive Committee only)
  o Personnel & Elections – the issue of who conducts the elections in the schools/colleges was addressed and needs to be communicated to the Deans and Associate Deans.
  o Policy 601
  o Summer – Policy 632 and 633. Arlen said the senate could utilize the webinar for a senate meeting over the summer.

• Committee Reports
  o Tenure Board of Review - Have concluded another appeal and submitted their recommendation.
  o Curriculum - Russ felt the diagrams of the curriculum process did not address the issue of Distance Education. Arlen will review again. Russ meets with Kat at the end of the week to discuss constellation of policies that deal with the curriculum process and alternative approaches. Russ received feedback from the school/college curriculum committees on Grade Inflation. Russ inquired if there was a need for additional feedback and that grading is a fundamental part of curriculum. There needs to be a push down to the departments and build into the curriculum process dialogue that addresses this issue and removing it from a university policy. Departments/schools/colleges need to refine their grading guidelines. It was recommended that training be provided to curriculum committee members so they understand their role. Russ indicated there are no mechanisms in place for effective collaboration between Administration and Curriculum Committees.
  o Faculty Development – David has seen the proposed 18 questions on the SRIs. He hopes that there will be something by the end of the month coming to Senate.
• Faculty Senate has sponsored Benjamin Ginsberg as a guest speaker on April 5th. David proposed the question “Should Senate have an internal conversation on the context of what does it mean to be a university?” be addressed to faculty members.

• Academic Freedom Statement
  o Senates across the state are trying to develop a common statement that all senates would be comfortable to post on their websites. Please let David know if you have any comments in preparation to bring it forth to the senate.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm