SENATE COMMITTEE ON FACULTY AFFAIRS

Minutes for Meeting #1, September 9, 2014

Members Present:
Harold Aurand, David Babb, Michael Berube, Blannie Bowen, Thomas Brown, Victor Brunsden, Diane Ebken, Gary Gray, Betty Harper, Rosemary Jolly, Lawrence Kass, Kenneth Keiler, Patricia Koch (Chair), William Lasher, Angela Linse, Barrie Litsky, Salvatore Marisco, Meg Meloy, Rajen Mookerjee, Adam Muchmore, Brad Pinter (Vice Chair), Esther Prins, Timothy Pyatt, Eileen Trauth

Members Absent:
William Curran, Ann Ouyang, James Ruiz, Andrew Schulz

Guests:
None

Meeting was called to order by Chair Koch at 8:30 a.m.

1. Chair's Report (8:30-9:00)

   a. Review and Approval of Minutes from 4/29/2014: Vote: Minutes accepted unanimously with minor correction.

   b. Review of 2014-2015 Faculty Affairs Priority Form: Chair Koch briefly described the subcommittee charges for the year.

   c. Subcommittee membership: Chair Koch distributed the subcommittee membership lists.

   d. Report from September 8th Officers and Chairs Meeting: The first O&C meeting was largely organizational.

2. Subcommittee Meetings (9:00-10:00): Discussion of tasks and time lines:

   a. Faculty Development (FacDev): Teaching Workload Policies (A3), Review of Emeritus Policy HR25 (B1), Review of Evaluation of Faculty Teaching (B3)

   b. Faculty Rights & Privacy Issues (FRPI): Protection of Faculty during Budgetary Contractions (A2), Review of Conflict of Commitment Policy AD77 (A4), Status and Review of Post-Retirement Appointments HR45 (B2)

3. Break (10:00-10:15)

4. Full Committee Meeting (10:15-11:00): Reporting out from subcommittees for full committee feedback:

   a. **PTAL** – Plans to consider revision to the current policy on leaves of absence issues related to gender (A1). First step will be benchmarking with other peer institutions. The committee may also consider the broader question of why the female tenure rate is less than male’s at Penn State and at many other institutions. The types of data that would need to be collected in order to examine this issue need to be addressed.

   b. **FRPI** – Suggested that future committee charges should be required to be accompanied by a short statement providing necessary background/context to understand the charges. Sometimes there is a question as to how widespread certain issues are and if they are worthy of devoting a great deal of time and attention to. Chair Koch will bring this to the attention of CC&R with the recommendation that official charge statements should accompany the Priority Forms. In this light, skepticism was expressed regarding the need for examining post-retirement appointments and if FRPI is the appropriate committee to do so. In addition to what was identified on the Priority Form, the committee plans to consider PSU computing policy regarding surveillance of faculty computer use. They are hoping to receive more information about the stated charges in order to create a work time-line.

   c. **FacDev** – Work will be continued from last year’s committee regarding teaching workload policies. Would like to receive additional clarification of the charges to review the Emeritus Policy in order to determine where the issues lie.

   d. **Vote on Revisions to the Guidelines for Review of the Establishment, Reorganization, or Discontinuation of Academic Organizational Units** – Vote: approved with one abstention.

   e. **Update on the General Education Task Force**: Task Force plans to visit all campuses and UP units to solicit feedback to the informational report to be submitted to Faculty Senate for discussion at the October meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Pinter