FACULTY AFFAIRS MEETING
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

Members Present: John Bagby, Michael Berube, Kimberly Blockett, Blannie Bowen, Victor Brunsden, Darlene Clark, Betty Harper, Kathryn Jablokow, Krishna Jayaker, Lawrence Kass, Ellen Knodt, Patricia Koch (Chair), Richard Kubina, Gretchen Kulda, William Lasher, Angela Linse, Salvatore Marsico, Margaret Meloy, Adam Muchmore, Brad Pinter (Vice Chair), Timothy Pyatt, Hampton Shirer, Stephen Snyder, Robin Veder


The meeting was called to order by Chair Koch at 8:30 am.

1. Chair's Report (8:30-9:15)

   a. Introductions and Orientation: All members introduced themselves and the units that they represent. Chair identified the subcommittee members and chairs (Darlene Clark for Faculty Development; Salvatore Marsico for Faculty Rights & Privacy Issues; and Robin Veder for Promotion, Tenure, Absences, & Leaves.)

   b. Review and Approval of Minutes from 4/23/2013: Several minor corrections were suggested to be revised in the final minutes.
Motion (Brunsen/Kubina): To accept the minutes with corrections. Passed unanimously.

   c. Review of 2013-2014 Faculty Affairs Priority Form: Chair read and briefly discussed the set of charges for the year and noted that additional work might come to our committee regarding the Take Care of Your Health initiative, as well as other issues that may arise during the year.

   Senator Bowen was asked for an update on charge A2 (Elimination of Loyalty Assertion). He said that University Counsel approved the document, clearing the way for its presentation to the full Senate for the October meeting.

   d. Report from September 9, 2013 Officers and Chairs Meeting: Chair related intense discussion about the Take Care of Your Health Initiative. Benefits committee did not believe they had been adequately consulted. The importance of taking detailed minutes during each committee meeting to secure the historical record was stressed.

   Senator Jayaker gave a short report on the General Education Task Force. That committee is developing subcommittee charges and timelines for activities. Of particular relevance to Faculty Affairs is the suggestion that there be created a General Education Faculty (along the lines of the Graduate School faculty). The committee seeks input from Faculty Affairs and plans to have an informational report at the Faculty Senate in October and a Forensic session in November.

   Discussion ensued regarding what decisions had been made (none as of yet), although it seems like General Education is being envisioned to revolve around a set of themes
with courses being offered at various levels from introductory (first year) to capstone (senior year). Committee members raised questions about the potential consequences of changes to existing programs and courses, faculty workloads and faculty positions, and campus programs. The issue of the potential elimination of fixed-term faculty positions and programs in areas that were no longer pertinent to the themes (e.g. kinesiology activity courses) was of concern. Additionally, the time frame for decision making and implementation (Fall 2015) was noted as rushed and unrealistic.

2. Subcommittees Meetings (9:15-10:15): Subcommittees met to discuss charges and develop activity plans for the year. They will present highlights of their discussions and plans at the next meeting.

3. Presentation by Careen Yarnal on Student Engagement (10:15-10:30): Senator Yarnal described her Task Force's charge to embed engaged scholarship into the curriculum. The primary goal is to provide all undergraduate students at least one engaged scholarship experience. Discussion focused on three major areas:
   * the definition of engaged scholarship. There was some concern expressed over the current ambiguity of the term making implementation and evaluation more difficult,
   * its relationship to the revisions under consideration for General Education,
   * implications for the promotion and tenure process. For example, would involvement in engaged scholarship be an expectation of all faculty members and/or mandatory?

4. Full Committee Meeting (10:30-11:00): Discussion focused on Take Care of Your Health Initiative. Senator Bagby expressed concern related to data security and shared governance and was nominated by FRPI to address the full Senate on these matters. Senator Brunsden invited senators to sign a petition calling for a special session to discuss action regarding the Health initiative.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted by Brad Pinter