UNIVERSITY PLANNING COMMITTEE
The University Faculty Senate

Minutes

8:30 to 10:30 AM, April 29, 2014
214 Business Bldg


1. Meeting called to order at 8:32 AM.
2. Minutes of previous minutes approved
3. Announcements from Chair: Items will be addressed during meeting
4. Reports
   o Ford Stryker
     ▪ Updates on planned updates of buildings around the University
   o Dave Lieb
     ▪ Campaign for Penn State very successful with $2.158 billion raised
     ▪ No other campaigns currently planned
       • Will likely depend on Dr. Barron’s direction
     ▪ Discussion of individual goals and outcome
   o Rachel Smith
     ▪ Discussion of state appropriation and hopes for increase
     ▪ Interim operating budget until BOT meets in July to approve new budget
       • Needs to meet after appropriation passed by state
     ▪ Brief discussion of longer term budget planning
     ▪ Provost charging a committee today to look at student insurance premiums
     ▪ Healthcare costs still increasing but not as rapidly
   o Michael Dooris not present
5. Mandated reports to Senate are all completed
6. Request from General Education Task Force
   o How can the University-wide discussion of general education be used to more generally impact innovation and excellence in undergraduate education throughout the University?
     ▪ Balanced discussion of if request is within the scope of this committee.
     ▪ Suggested that Gen Ed needs to look across domains to improve student experience and promote innovation and excellence.
       • Develop themes of study outside major to partially address students simply taking the “easy” Gen Ed course to fulfill requirement and get a good grade.
• Concern about costs.
  ▪ Gen Ed leaning towards reducing number of credits in Gen Ed and increasing credits in major.
  ▪ If this occurs, will it affect students’ ability to stay at commonwealth campuses with need to take upper division classes?
  ▪ Discussion if this is a good idea and what is driving this review of Gen Ed
  ▪ Should faculty do better job of advising students?
  ▪ Keith Nelson will develop a plan for the committee to review

7. Topics for next year
   o Research Committee request to look at indirect costs
     ▪ Industry not submitting money that was promised and university loses money
     ▪ Place on agenda for next year with presentation of indirect costs
     ▪ Discussion of grant money and space allocation and utilization of indirect costs
   o Mandated reports
   o Strategic planning will be a major topic for committee
   o Review of 5-year budget planning
   o Invitation for Dr. Barron to meet with the committee and provide direction to the committee in areas that he feels that the committee could address

8. Meeting adjourned 10:05 AM.

Minutes Submitted by Roger Egolf, Committee Chair