

Final Faculty Senate Minutes for September 10, 2010

JBK Room 11, 12:15pm

1. Meeting called to order at 12:16p.m. by President Byrd. Members present included: Ambrose, Bartlett, Bigham, Browning, Byrd, Castillo, Chenoweth, Commissiong, Davis, Dursun-Kilic, Friske, Holliday, Issa, Landram, Lee, Pendleton, Rosa, Stuntz (ex-officio), Trela, and Vizzini. Cansler substituting for Parr-Scanlin and Loftin substituting for Branson. Wilson absent.
2. Davis moved and Vizzini seconded that minutes from April 29, 2010 be approved as submitted. Passed.
3. Purpose of this meeting: orientation and mechanics. Byrd provided a summary of best contact methods for him. He wants to meet one-on-one with each of the Senators. Please contact him if you wish to schedule such a meeting.
 - a. Three most essential elements of campus are faculty, library and students. Everything else is peripheral. Senate is unique in representing 2 of the 3, and has a broad, rather than focused, charge.
 - b. Limited time available to Senate, so need to spend it on the truly important issues. Informality of approach should not be seen as a lack of seriousness.
 - c. Byrd wants Senate to look at issues at University, College and Departmental level. There are times when it is appropriate to bring College issues to the Senate.
 - d. By next Friday, please send to Byrd list of issues for consideration, with input from departmental colleagues. He will anonymize those suggestions, send to the Senators, and we will discuss in Executive Session at meeting of September 24.
4. Overview discussion of Faculty Senate section of Faculty Handbook
 - a. Two-way channel of communication: faculty/administration, including bringing faculty suggestions to administration.
 - b. Any faculty member can bring issue to Senate, which should be encouraged.
 - c. Under meetings, please note that members can call meetings, as well as the President.
 - d. The Executive Session provision can be used when items need to be debated without an audience. Any member of Senate can request an executive session.
 - e. Suggestion was made that Dr. O'Brien and Dr. Hallmark be invited to answer questions, rather than give presentations. Desire expressed to have questions asked by the Senate as a body. Is it appropriate for non-tenured faculty to serve on Senate? With non-tenured Senators, how can those individuals be able to speak freely?
 - f. Concerns include the possibility of the Senate appearing covert, and shutting off an avenue of communication from the University President.
 - g. Compromise suggestion: at end of a question period ask the question "what else is going on that we haven't asked about that that faculty should know about?" Another suggestion is to have a tenured "mentor" who will ask the question if it is sent previously. Browning volunteered to ask any question, at any time
 - h. Noted that grievance committee and representation on curriculum committee are important functions. Question about current promotion and tenure procedures.

- i. Depending on the issue, meaningful discussion may best occur with the Provost present, other times in his absence.
5. Robert's Rules "lite" will rule, that is there will be fewer occasions when a vote is called for, but individual Senators can also call for a vote. Rosa volunteered to act as informal parliamentarian.
6. Announcements:
 - a. Art club will be sponsoring a "Night Blow" Sept. 17 @ 8pm. On the patio at Mary Moddy Northen Hall. Glass blowing and grilling, contributions for food appreciated.
7. Meeting adjourned at 1:28p.m.

These minutes have been approved.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Chenoweth, Secretary