

Topics from the Faculty Caucus

3:00 - 5:00 p.m., August 20, 2009

From the Caucus discussion:

- Investigate bringing back the Faculty/Staff Union
 - WCU used to have one in the past, and there are some faculty who used to be on it
 - American Association of University Professors (AAUP) at <http://www.aaup.org/aaup>, NC-AAUP at <http://www.nc-aaup.org>
 - Perhaps look to the University Advisory Council (UAC) or Faculty Affairs Council (FAC) for leadership
- Revisit issue of hiring foreign nationals
 - The requirement of needing a hard copy advertisement is not in the university policy
 - The costs associated with this are taken on by the department
- Invite the Board of Trustees to meet with the Senate
 - We need more interaction between the BOT and the faculty
 - Perhaps not even at a Senate meeting, something less formal without an agenda
- Mixed signals on the importance of scholarship and publications
 - The Chancellor's opening address emphasized generating jobs and helping the region over publications and research
 - This is giving mixed signals to faculty, especially the untenured
 - We need to make sure its the DCRD that is what we're to meet (once it has been approved) and not any unspoken criteria
- University Tenure Review Committee
 - When electing university level tenure committee members, we should know more about the candidates (ask for short background information and perhaps a statement regarding the position they're seeking/their views); this would be good for other elections too
 - We need to make accessible (on university website) the list of who is on the University Tenure Review Committee
- "Matching Funds" Pool
 - Would like to see a fund established, that is not rolled up at the end of the year) for the purpose of being used for matching funds requirements on grants.
 - The Research Council has looked at this
- Process for going to "College Model"
 - We need to try to make sure there will be a process in how to go from the "Provost Model" to a "College Model"; how will decisions be made, when is the college the final level of approval, who has what "ownership"?
 - This needs to have faculty and staff input
- TRANSPARENCY – a recurring theme
- Budget Transparency
 - Where does the money come from for food for an opening ceremony or faculty opening luncheon?
 - It needs to be easier to get information about available funds (for example, to identify how much money is available in a fund for scholarships)
 - There is an audit mechanism, but can we get access, and if so, how?
 - This is just a start on transparency issues with budgets ...

- Course Eval incentives
 - One idea was asked to be brought to the caucus: Can it be required to have students login to CourseEval in order to be able to access their grade?
 - Are there other possible incentives?
- Pay for Print
 - We need to have someone investigate how Pay for Print affects instruction/pedagogy.
 - There was no *a priori* input from faculty about how this would affect their instruction.
- Faculty Voice on IT
 - With IT moving to reporting to the Chancellor, where will faculty voice come in (– mention of College Technology Committees)
 - Issues that affect faculty, such as refresh money for computers, Pay for Print
 - We need a place for policy issues to be aired (not just technical details that come up in College Technology Committees)
- General Education/General Studies/Liberal Studies
 - How do we proceed from here?
 - The Chancellor needs to send out the report from Provost Carter and Richard Beam this summer
- How to better make faculty aware of Senate items
 - Announcements at department meetings
 - Hot button topic emails
 - Announce what’s being voted on
 - Put a Senate Section in the Reporter
 - Links within email to documents
 - Popup announcements on WebCAT
 - We need to advertise the results of the “stopping the tenure clock” work from last year; it’s not known to faculty.
 - Update progress we’re making with the Caucus items list throughout the year
 - Ask Staff Senate to do similar things
- Ombudsman – We need to follow up on this again!!
- Budget line item for Senate
 - Suggestion that Richard Beam bring this up to the Board of Trustees; as for a small budget, such as \$10,000, that the Senate can use to jump start some items (such as the Ombudsman, which was approved but postponed due to lack of funds!)
- Child care
 - This is associated with faculty retention
 - The Kneedler Center has limited availability and doesn’t take infants
 - There are limited child care providers in the area
- Maternity/Paternity leave
 - Is there a policy?
 - How do other universities deal with this?

Other items submitted by email:

- Hand-held devices in the classroom
 - Would like the Faculty Senate to consider a policy about the use of hand-held devices and netbooks in the classroom.
 - As a faculty member, I need back-up if I should have to kick a student out of class for being disruptive or glazed-over as a result of the use of these devices.
- Senate Leadership Coming from One College
 - It might be helpful for the Rules Committee to consider some means of making sure that not all of the Faculty leadership is elected from one college.
 - No idea as to how to do this since people are nominated (volunteer) and are elected by the faculty as a whole and we wouldn't want to change that, but it might be worth looking into some process which would be fair, yet assure that one college (school) did not have to bear the burden (have the advantage?) of having all of the elected leadership of the faculty come from one unit.