

Topics from the Faculty Caucus

3:00 - 5:00 p.m., January 13, 2010

From the Caucus discussion:

- Request for a resolution indicating faculty have the right to appeal a decision from the Department Head and Dean, etc.
 - Suggest that this is extending the grievance procedure for employment to other types of decisions.
 - Specific issue of a grant proposal and putting in an line-item for money to go to establish matching funds. This was originally ok'd by the department head but turned down by the dean. The department head then also changed their decision to support this line-item.
 - Suggestion that the person talk to the Graduate School about this as a similar issue was talked about in Research Council.
 - Complaint: If the final decision is not from a Dean or Department head, then they shouldn't have the ability to "kill" a request.
- Request a Statement on University Citizenship and Guide to Committees and Service at Different Levels
 - A number of faculty have indicated they've been told to do more service and they don't know what to do or how to pick.
 - Laura Cruz offered the Faculty Center to create a guide, but feels the ethos should come from the Faculty Senate.
 - Comment: It's a great idea but there are so many committees it would be impossible to carry out – suggestion that not all would be discussed in the Guide, especially the Ad Hoc committees, just a general statement.
 - Could do a web page or PDF, suggest talking to Jim DeConik in Business.
- Investigating programs with too many credit hours (and tuition surcharge rules)
 - Determined that APRC does have the purview here, but there's a question as to whether this is the best place to put Faculty Senate effort right now.
 - Discussion also led to a question of any policy on the number of general electives required.
 - One key item of discussion is to publicize information on the surcharge to advisors (e.g. summer school hours don't count to credit hour count determining if surcharge applies)
- Having a voice in determining whether or not to have a January Term
 - The January term is gaining momentum in administration and faculty are not getting involved in it and it will have long term consequences. We should be involved and take control of this rather than waiting to be told what we're doing.
 - Examples of positives and negatives: ups SCH production; faculty wouldn't get paid for it as it would be part of the regular load.
 - We need to be involved!

- Could see this as a Task Force.
- Comment: there is a broad range of people on the Calendar committee.
- Would be nice to go to a public university and see how a January Term effects them (in response to Wofford’s January term).
- Talk to the Provost at the Senate Planning Meeting about wanting faculty input immediately with a Senate Task Force from Faculty Affairs and Academic Policy and Review Councils.
- Faculty involvement in hiring administrative positions affecting faculty
 - Faculty need to be involved in hiring (interim positions as well as permanent positions) upper level administration affecting faculty – Deans, Provost, Chancellor. Want not only faculty representation, but Faculty Senate representation as well.
- Problems between Distance Learning, Summer School, and the Interaction between the Two
 - Claim that no one has a grip on it.
 - The tuition differential is a problem. It effects the calculation of faculty pay. Discussion of “open checkbook budget” that was used up then an additional \$1.4 million added. When courses are cross-listed, money comes out of distance de (and ever student is charged distance rates). Can run out of money in distance ed.
 - Huge issue that the differential has to be fixed. The Deans are only given 2/3 of the cost to implement distance ed courses.
 - Interested to have Faculty Senate see how money is divided out (e.g. IT gets some of fees)
 - Faculty Senate can be involved, where is the money they’re generating going; also determining faculty pay rates and is it a sustainable model.
 - Comment on how difficult it is to work with and understand APR21 (for summer pay)
- Taking issue that the only way faculty would get a raise is if they’d had an offer from another institution.
 - Claim never to have received merit pay – this was debated.
- Interest in knowing if anyone has had problems with faculty support
 - A comment about problems with IT and computer support in one incidence.
 - Discussion of emergency need to purchase digital storage this fall.
- Desire for clarification in what’s going on in Provost’s Office restructuring
- Question of “what is the college model”
- Claim of weird or inconsistent computer refresh
 - Not determining which computer based on needs of the user (some low-end vs others high-end; all get the same machine choices).
- Senate Budget – what’s it been used for?

- batteries
- should be printing in the future
- suggestion of getting a laptop for Senate use