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Faculty Affairs Committee Minutes of the Academic Senate 2013-11-07

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Minutes for the Faculty Affairs Committee of the Academic Senate

November 7, 2013

In Attendance: Linda Hartley (chair), Eric Taglieri, Katie Willard, Carissa Krane, Harry Gerla, Emily Hicks, Ralph Frasca, Abdullah Alghafis, James Ervin, Joe Watras

Absent: Y. Song., P. McGreal, R. Mosser

Guests: Dr. John Weber (SOE), Dr. Kurt Jackson (SEHS), Ms. Carrie Rogan (SEHS)

Meeting called to order at 12:02 by Linda Hartley

Minutes from the previous meeting were unavailable and therefore not approved from the last meeting. L. Hartley will send them to FAC via email.

Intellectual property update: No further action has been taken since the last meeting in the committee. Further action will have to be taken on the Academic Senate during the next meeting. No further discussion took place in regards to this issue.

Faculty titles: It was discussed that the Distinguished Service Professor must be current members of the faculty; rationale must be adjusted in order to provide clarity on the implication of the title. The committee wishes to clarify the faculty title by making changes to the title without making any new responsibilities or implications to the position itself. Rationale in question: DSP was not meant as a substitute for Professor Emeritus/Emerita. Committee consensus: Revised version of title description was unanimously agreed upon by the committee (revisions in italics): "The title Distinguished Service Professor may be awarded to an individual currently a member of the faculty who *has devoted many years to serving the University, and who has made exceptional contributions* to the University community in the areas of teaching, scholarship, *service*, or administration. *The title may only be held by current members of the faculty.* Any member of the University academic community may nominate a candidate for the title Distinguished Service Professor. Normally the nomination should originate through department channels, but in rare cases the nomination may be made to the appropriate Dean or the Provost. The title is conferred by the President upon the recommendation of the Provost. Distinguished Service Professors are listed in the Academic Catalog." Dr. Hartley will move this proposal to ECAS.

John Weber speaks about the Research Professor title; appointments come from Dean of each school. Research professor title is not currently in the faculty handbook. In question is whether or not the title should be added. Dr. T. Saliba has no recommended changes to the proposed title. After discussion, John Weber suggested that a clarification should be added whether or not a research professor can teach a course. Most of the discussion was on whether or not the description and rationale should be separated and the committee came to a conclusion that the separation should take place.

One issue that came up was the question of consistency because of the fact that each school gives this title separately. The title serves a purpose as an honor rather than a promotion in position or new responsibilities. C. Krane brought up a point that the purpose for the title brings the opportunity of grants for the College of Arts and Sciences, and also a point that the title allows for student mentorship while working as a research professor. Harry Gerla explains that a simple explanation of the purpose of this title should be included. J. Weber sees it in the second sentence. Another issue brought up is the issue of rank based on the title. Linda Hartley mentioned that discussion will not conclude today due to time constraints. J. Weber will revise the current description proposal and send it back to L. Hartley for further FAC discussion.

SET Questions for FAC: Kurt Jackson is here as a SET Committee member to help answer questions about the new SET questions. Questions from ECAS presented include how the results of the new online SET process are applied or used.

Current standing is the use of summative scores. Jackson and the committee recommend that 8 core items be utilized, with the rationale to improve professors and student performance. Questions can be added per department to implement policies that they feel are necessary. The SET committee recommends that the composite score does not stand alone in order to get full accuracy of teacher evaluation. Also, the SET committee recommends a way that individual questions are fairly standardized due to variations in course difficulty and class size. FAC thoughts on the SET were questions to avoid multiple presentations by other subcommittees. Questions can be adjusted and tweaked due to improvements recommended by teachers and students. Departments take an average. J. Watras suggested using a standard deviation in order to provide more accurate SET scores. Averages in departments are a bad bell-weather. It was also mentioned that quality of courses can affect department averages and that confidentiality is key. C. Krane believed the by-laws would have to be changed in order for standard deviation to be implemented. Adjustments would have to be made in each school in order to conform to the SET policies. Some recommendations from SET committee include using written comments cautiously when reading evaluations. Linda Hartley suggests that written comments should be included in the use of SET and recommends that administrators use all information.

The overall consensus was to review the SET suggestions further in order to eliminate any confusion. Linda Hartley opened an invitation to for a volunteer to represent the FAC to collaborate with APC and SAPC on a joint SET proposal for the Senate. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Taglieri