

Faculty Senate Minutes
February 6, 2013

Senators Present: Lea Ann Alexander, Stephanie Barron, Marck Beggs, Kristen Benjamin, David Stoddard (for Beverly Buys), Nathan Campbell, Steven Carter, Carolyn Eoff, David Evans, Daniel Fitzroy, John Greene, Allison Harris, Megan Hickerson, Jana Jones, Patricia Loy, Beth Maxfield, Carolyn McClure, Lonnie McDonald, Janice O'Donnell, Malcolm Rigsby, Richard Schmid, Ingo Schranz, R. C. Smith, Patrick Wempe, Penny Whelchel, Fred Worth.

Senators Absent: Richard Miller, Paul Williamson.

Others Present: Danielle Beck, Ryan Klare, Maralyn Sommer.

1. Call to Order: President David Evans 3:14
2. Discussion with Interim Provost/VPAA, Dr. Maralyn Sommer
 - A. News: A new committee has been formed to assess facilities. This committee will ascertain needs in campus buildings and prioritize needs based on exigency and cost.
 - B. News: Faculty Excellence Awards process needs an overseer. Knowledge and consistency of procedures are problematic since committee members change annually.
 - C. Q&A: Faculty Handbook revisions that go before the board this month include a provision to combine tenure and promotion for tenure track faculty. Senate was asked if that provision begins with new hires as of July 1, 2013. After some discussion, Senators voted that the provision becomes effective with new tenure track faculty hired on or after July 1, 2013.
 - D. Q&A: Several faculty members asked about HVAC problems in several academic buildings. All buildings on campus seem to have a variety of problems, and state appropriations are unlikely. Thus, maintenance continues on existing systems.
3. Approval of December 2012 and January 2013 Minutes
4. President's Report
 - A. President Glen Jones discussed financial needs of the University; he has chosen a careful and methodical approach to developing resources through enrollment management, academic programs, private monies, and state revenue. Implementation of strategies will take time but hopefully will move us forward and have a positive impact on all aspects of the University. One example of development is revamping the student application process; another is offering faculty more amenities with existing monies, such as access to the Dunn Center.
 - B. Vice President Bobby Jones discussed the new funding formula that took effect January 1, 2013. He also discussed the task of the new Deferred Maintenance Committee (see 2.a) to be one of prioritizing and recommending facility repair/renovation/demolition. VP Jones also noted that the new dining hall is on schedule for a May 2013 opening and that plans are underway to refit the Garrison Center for a more student-friendly center. New contracts will bring in Chik-Fil-A, Starbucks, and Subway (the latter to replace Quizno's when that contract expires).

- C. Items of discussion following this report
 - i. Online classes and their impact on retention
 - ii. Process for selecting new chain restaurants; students were consulted; various ideas for repurposing the Garrison Center
 - iii. Examination of why students go to college; allowing Enrollment Management to demonstrate effectiveness
 - iv. Collective power of the faculty; much discussion
 - v. Cost of quality faculty vs administration; compare with other schools

5. Reports of Committees

- A. Executive Committee: Each of the following is a topic discussed at the executive committee meeting.
 - i. Proposal regarding proctored testing for online classes: a facility is available. Sent to Academics Committee. Discussion: online policy, academic freedom, academic integrity.
 - ii. Re-evaluation of university forgiveness policy. Sent to Academics Committee.
 - iii. Proposal regarding WP policy: also being examined by FYE. Sent to Academics.
 - iv. Proposal regarding plagiarism: Academic Honesty. After discussion, kept with Executive Committee.
- B. Academics Committee: New chair is Patrick Wempe; no report.
- C. Buildings and Grounds Committee: New Chair is Megan Hickerson. No report.
- D. Finance Committee: New Chair is Carolyn Eoff; no report.
- E. Operations Committee: Paul Williamson is new Chair. No report.
- F. Procedures Committee: New Chair is John Greene. Electronic balloting is allowable and the committee is exploring.

6. Old Business: None.

7. New Business: Several items, as noted below.

- i. A proposal was brought forth to change the wording in the Faculty Handbook regarding the eligibility for promotion from instructor to assistant professor. The proposal was sent to the Operations Committee.
- ii. Questions were raised regarding peer reviews: purpose, frequency. Sent to operations committee.
- iii. A discussion was prompted about the Faculty 180 system.

8. Adjourn 4:48

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Maxfield