

Faculty Council Agenda for Thursday, March 17, 2011

Venue: 221 Chambers Bldg Time: 2:30 – 4:30 PM

Members Present: Don Heller, Fran Arbaugh, Stephanie Knight, Orrin Murray, Dana Mitra; Robert Reason, Shirley Woika, Katie Reed, Susan Woodhouse, Linda Mason

Guests Present: David Monk

1. Approval of the minutes from February meeting

Moved by Fran Arbaugh; second by Orrin Murray; approved

2. Legislative Business

- 2.1. **Departmental representation on Faculty Council:** Current guidelines state the each department has two representatives; with merger of two departments into one larger one issues of representativeness is questionable. Is a proportional model of representation more appropriate?

Each of existing two departments will have two representatives. If the merger goes through as expected, the new department will have four. Faculty Council will revisit the issue after soliciting feedback from the existing departments.

- 2.2. **Process of Recycling Budgets:** Orrin Murray reported concerns about how the recycling process went forward (why wasn't FC consulted; what process did the Dean go through; why can't reductions be handled at the College level). Concerns were expressed in the interest of transparency of process.

The Dean addressed the process. Normally, the College was given a percentage of its budget for reduction by central administration. This year that number has not been decided yet, but the Dean felt it prudent to set a number (approximately 2%; roughly \$300K) in order to allow planning to move forward. The College absorbed the "lion's share," (60% of total reduction) but needed to pass on the remainder of the recycling to the departments. The amount passed on the department was approximately equal to the stipend of one graduate assistantship. The Dean will discuss ways of involving Faculty Council in the process in the future.

3. Announcements by the Chair

Don Heller mentioned the budget situation and the recent discussions in Harrisburg.

4. Communications to the Council

None

5. Comments by the Dean of the College—David Monk

The Dean shared a bit more about the budget. The hope is that the legislature will restore some of the budget allocation. All options are on the table for reduction expenses. The Dean has asked the budget units to work with a 2% recycling.

US News & World Report rankings are out—all programs within which there are rankings are ranked within the Top 15; six programs in Top 10; Higher Education is ranked #1. The College dropped from 24 to 26 in the overall rankings.

Penn State is still waiting for a response from the letter sent to US News and National Center for Teacher Quality (NCTQ).

The Dean has been invited to discuss the merger of the two departments at the next Faculty Senate meeting (April 12).

There are no active searches this year, but Ed Fuller will join the COE Faculty in August. He was hired last year, but deferred his move until 2011. There will be a visiting faculty member in Science Education next year to make up for the holes created by recent administrative appointments.

Preston Green was named the Batschelet chaired professor of educational administration Michael Moore and Spencer Niles were recently named Distinguished Professors.

Advising survey is live. This is a pilot implementation and feedback is being accepted by the Dean's office.

Alumni Society Board meets this Saturday.

Cycle-thon is April 17.

Ron Ehrenberg is the speaker for Commencement in May and will receive an honorary degree from the university.

The Dean is working on a statement/policy regarding faculty absences. This is meant to supplement and support existing departmental policies. Heller mentioned the variety of policy implementations by department and some discussion among the Dean's Advisory Council about the possibility for more consistent policy implementation. Members will discuss the policy language with their respective faculty colleagues and revisit at the next meeting.

6. News from Faculty Senate (Beverly Vandiver)

Shirley Woika shared Beverly Vandiver's written report, which is included below: Senate Council Meeting was prior to spring break and Faculty Senate meeting occurred on Tuesday, 3-15-11.

The bulk of senate council meeting was devoted to raising concerns to the Provost about the process of the Core Committee and the role of Senate Council and Faculty Senate in the process. Some senators requested that all of the core committee recommendations be made available to Senate Council prior to proposal from Colleges come to Council for vote. Furthermore, there was a concern that the Deans had uniformly posted these recommendations in their respective colleges. The Provost indicated that he hoped that all

the Deans would be posting them in the near future, but didn't see a need for the Council to receive recommendations, as these might not be ones proposed to the Council. He indicated that recommendations made by the Council would be forwarded to the President as well as the Board of Trustees. He also underscored that no changes should be made at the College level until the Board of Trustees have voted on them.

The same goes for curriculum changes. No changes can be implemented until they have been gone through the appropriate channel—Graduate Council or Faculty Senate.

Other news:

- New Faculty Senate committee—Global Programs
- Annual presentation of faculty salaries and benefits—posted online through faculty senate.
- World Language requirement – approval of alternatives at the discretion of the Dean

Faculty Senate meeting: Focus was on the proposed reduced funding from the State. The President took extensive questions about the matter and is involved in talking to the legislators face to face as well as through hearings. Tuition will rise for in-state students, much more than for out of state students. Entire burden will not be placed on students. Do not want to lay off anyone—major impact will be in AG, but scope of reduction will determine other reductions. The live press conference given by Spanier last week good source of information.

7. Reports of standing committees

7.1. Committee on Graduate Studies and Research Policy (Stephanie Knight, Chair)
No report.

7.2. Committee on Curricular Affairs (Shirley Woika, Chair)

The Curricular Affairs Committee last met on February 28, 2011. We reviewed 16 separate proposals. These included proposals for a blended D.Ed. program in Counselor Education, three 500-level CN ED courses, a CN PSY course, an RHS course, an LL ED course, three proposals to drop programs (D.Ed. and M. S. in INSYS, D.Ed. in Workforce Ed), and a course in INSYS with the remaining five proposals being specific to LPS (Learning & Professional Systems). Some proposals were approved at that level while others were provided with feedback.

The types of feedback varies. For example, regarding the proposed blended D.ED program in CNED, the group raised questions regarding the lack of a STAT component for students who will be required to conduct research and the demands that an anticipated 23 students per year would create for faculty with the addition of only one fixed-term faculty member to be funded through Outreach.

Our next meeting is scheduled for tomorrow; however, we only have three proposals to review, two which were previously reviewed by the committee and were resubmitted with modifications. Thus, we have opted to review the proposals and provide and respond via email

7.3. **Committee on Faculty, Staff and Student Concerns** (Roger Shouse, Chair)
The committee is assembling and reviewing packets for award nominations.

7.4. **Technology Committee** (Simon Hooper, Chair)
No report.

8. **Reports of ad hoc committees**
No reports

9. **Unfinished Business**

At the last meeting, Simon Hooper raised the issue of the purpose of residency in doctoral programs. Don Heller will add to next month's agenda as New Legislative Business.

Don Heller would like to receive specific comments from faculty members about the CITI training.

10. **Forensic Business**
None

11. **Adjourned**

Next Faculty Council Meeting: Thursday, April 21st , 221 Chambers Building