

Members Present: Don Heller, Fran Arbaugh, Stephanie Knight, Orrin Murray, Dana Mitra, Katie Reed, Susan Woodhouse, Linda Mason; Beverly Vandiver; Simon Hooper; Roger Shouse; Shirley Woika

Guests Present: David Monk, Ali Carr-Chelman, David Popp (via phone)

1. Approval of the minutes from March meeting

Moved by Shirley Woika; second by Linda Mason; approved

2. Legislative Business

2.1. Results of the Faculty Council election for next year: Beverly Vandiver will be Chair of the Faculty Council and Bernard Badiali will be Chair-Elect for next year's Faculty Council

2.2. Purpose of the LPS residency requirement: Ali Carr-Chellman shared an extensive document titled "Residency Requirements" with the Faculty Council. For a D.ED program that is in the field, she explained that a traditional two or three week residency program did not meet the needs of their program. The practitioner emphasis of this D. Ed program suggests that a different type of residential experience would be more appropriate. Instead, a virtual residency program is proposed. Tools would be used to help people to connect within an online community of practice. Affiliation events would occur on the campus and synchronous online activities would be available for students living at a great distance as community building activities.

Discussion included the importance of face-to-face connection and the value of being connected to a particular place, including the broader university experience such as participation in student organizations, seminars and other intellectual activities that occur at the university site. Concerns were raised regarding unintended consequences of online programs, such as the lack of opportunity for quality references from professors in the programs. People discussed that perceptions still differ as to the authenticity of virtual discussions but many expected that these opinions would shift in the next five years.

2.3 Issues for next year. Since this is the last meeting of the year, Don Heller mentioned that issues next year that will be a focus for the new chair, Beverly Vandiver. The Council will continue discussions that arise from the merger of the two Departments and the Core Council recommendations. Representation of faculty council will be an issue that is revisited next year—should we change the representative from each department having two representatives to departmental representation varying depending on departmental size?

3. Announcements by the Chair

Don Heller thanked the service of the current Faculty Council, including the chairing of committees and the role of current, previous and chair-elect positions.

4. Communications to the Council

None

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

AERA conference was very successful. Over 100 presentations by Penn State faculty and students occurred at the event.

Cyclethon happened last Sunday. The day was very cold and has prompted discussions about whether another date during the year would be more appropriate in the summer or at another warmer time of the year.

The departmental merger was approved by the Senate Council and will be reviewed by the Board of Trustees at the May Meeting. July 1 would be the effective date of the changes. Questions were raised at Senate Council about the impact of the merger on CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services) and the tenure review process by the Senate Council, but the proposal was approved.

May 1 is the date by which the college is required to respond back to the concerns of the Core Council. It will be posted on the web site as a draft for feedback. The Dean will also include a section on other successes occurring in the College that were not noted in the original memo.

The advising survey results have been received. The feedback was by and large positive.

No new news on the state budget, but the state is expecting to resolve the budget by Memorial Day.

Student teacher receptions, supported by regional alumni networks are occurring at the end of the semester. The Dean discussed the positive nature of these functions as a way to bring the Penn State community together.

Commencement is May 15. Ron Ehrenberg will be receiving an honorary degree and the commencement speaker. Gary Orfield will be nominated for an honorary degree for the future.

Guidelines for faculty absences from class sessions were distributed at the last Faculty Council meeting and shared with council members electronically. A long discussion ensued among the Faculty Council and the Dean. Simon Hooper shared that his department (LPS) is opposed to the new policy because they fail to see the need for the policy. Instead, the department viewed it as a matter that would best be handled locally. The PICs don't feel that there is a problem with the coverage. The Dean mentioned that it could be awkward for the students to voice concerns. Simon Hooper suggested a statement at the College level providing guidance about the responsibilities as an instructors regarding meeting with students rather than an expectation that faculty must confer with the department chair, which could be viewed as micromanagement. The proposed policy does give the department chair the authority to decline the proposed solution presented by the faculty.

A discussion was raised given about whether the policy would address concerns raised about faculty absences from classes. The policy was originally developed since departments vary regarding the process by which faculty need to be accountable for missing classes. Discussion stressed that perhaps the issue is class cancellation or faculty absences rather than for travel specifically and shared that the concerns in a department are more related to last minute cancellations of classes due to personal emergency and weather since some students travel long distances to attend classes. Suggested changes—changing “confer” to “inform.” Another proposal raised focused on whether a set of guidelines/best practices regarding class conflicts and appropriate forms of addressing this problem could be shared, along with keeping the department head informed of absences from the university.

The Dean presented a compensation model for faculty teaching on the World Campus on top of a regular teaching load. A great deal of variation currently exists within the College. The Dean proposes a standardized model that levels the playing field. The formula is

of credit hours X actual enrollment X .1833 = the percentage of the 36 week base salary paid up to an 11 % cap

This provides for a class with 20 students reaching the 11% cap. Discussion included varying the formula for undergraduate versus graduate level courses. A comment was also raised about the difference in percentages between a course buyout (15%) and the summer salary cap (11%). Concerns were also raised regarding the disincentive for departments where this compensation structure might be less than the current payment plan.

6. News from Faculty Senate (Beverly Vandiver)

The Senate Council approved the merge of the departments in the CEDAR building, which was a relief since senators have been alarmed about many changes in the university. Lots of concern was raised at the closing of the STS major. Nine faculty would be dispersed back to colleges; untenured faculty received 17 month notice before termination. The biggest concern was a lack of consultation with the faculty in the affected colleges (Liberal Arts and Engineering). The Senate Council voted no on approving the closing of the STS major. The Provost was the only consenting vote to closing the STS major. After the Core Council recommendation, the Deans of the Colleges approved the recommendation, and The Board of Trustees provides the ultimate approval; the Senate Council is a consulting body only. The issue raised, however, was *how* the process occurred. The Senate Council stressed that the process could have occurred with much more sensitivity and consultation with faculty.

Additionally, many colleges have not shared the recommendations of the Core Council. The Senate Council passed a resolution requesting a receipt of all of the Core Council letters. The president and provost have asked the Senate Council to be available for emergency council meetings this summer. The Senate Council raised great concern about university morale and efficiency due to the sets of changes, and particularly the process by which the changes have occurred. According to process, changes in programs and departments cannot occur without a Senate Council vote as a part of the consultation.

Bill Carlson, Peggy Van Meter, Jonna Kulkovich, Rick Kubina, and Beverly Vandiver will be Senate Council representatives for the College next year.

7. Reports of standing committees

7.1. Committee on Graduate Studies and Research Policy (Stephanie Knight, Chair)

Six Dean's Graduate Assistantships were awarded and acceptances are still arriving. We received acceptance for the 4 University Graduate Fellowship awards. We received acceptance for one Distinguished Graduate fellowship. Additionally, three student dissertation Research Initiation Grants were awarded for Spring, 2011.

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

The meeting was scheduled for Friday April 15. However there was not a quorum. Thus members were asked to provide comments on proposals electronically. There were 9 proposals—5 new, 4 being reviewed for the second time. Proposals included SPLED: 5, RHS: 1, and CNED: 3 (with 1 CNED cross-listed with CNPSY). The next meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2011 from 10-11:30

7.3. Committee on Faculty, Staff and Student Concerns (Roger Shouse, Chair)

Award ceremony will be held May 4 from 3-4:30. Thanks to Katie Reed, Barb Schafer, and Wanda Wasilko for organizing the Awards Ceremony.

7.4. Technology Committee (Simon Hooper, Chair)

The committee met with Cole Camplese. The wireless update has occurred in Keller. The wireless in Chambers and Keller seems to be improved.

8. Reports of ad hoc committees

No reports

9. Unfinished Business

None

10. Forensic Business

None

11. Adjourned