

## **Faculty Council Meeting Minutes for Thursday, October 16, 2008**

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

1. Approval of the Minutes from September, 2008
2. Computer Scanning Initiative – Presentation by Penn State IT Leadership  
Craig Henninger - Systems Analyst  
David Lindstrom - Privacy Officer, Corporate Controller's Office  
Kathy Kimball - Sr Dir Security and Operation Services, ITS  
Jeff Kuhns - Assoc Vice Provost for IT  
Kevin Morooney – Vice Provost for IT

The computer scanning initiative presentation provided an overview of the purpose and process. The scanning initiative is considered a service to faculty aimed at preventing security breaches involving social security and banking numbers. Questions from faculty were welcomed and most centered on issues of privacy, timing of scans, and policies related to the initiative. FC discussed remaining questions following the presentation. Key areas for future exploration include: (a) whether the scan will begin within the College before it has been approved by Faculty Senate or there is an official mandate; (b) need for a committee with faculty representation to improve transparency; (c) significant HR issues for the College IT staff; (d) whether the software will be used by PSU to track information (e.g., phone numbers) for targeted groups of students; (e) how results are protected; (f) what happens if a faculty member refuses to participate in the scan (e.g., access to PSU server would be blocked); and (g) how faculty will be notified if/when policy changes are made that impact the scope of scans. FC members are encouraged to invite additional comments/questions from their home departments.

3. Announcements by the Chair
  - 3.1. Election Updates: Linda Mason will run as chair-elect of FC. Ballot (vote of confidence) will be sent out Friday, October 17; Full professors are need for College P&T committee. Rick Duschl from C&I and Jim Nolan have been put forward.
  - 3.2. Newly appointed FC representatives – Simon Hooper (LPS), TBA (CI), Becci Burns (GA)
  - 3.3. April 16, 2009 Meeting: This meeting may need to be rescheduled based on several FC members attending the AERA conference. An alternate date will be chosen at a future FC meeting.
4. Communications to the Council - None
5. Feedback on incorporating peer review into the College's extended tenure reviews: FC members reported that colleagues in their home departments were primarily not supportive of the proposal. Lack of support seemed to be related to the existing process working well, time burden on senior faculty, and the feeling that the process could escalate to another tenure review. Other FC members expressed support for the proposal based on tensions between faculty and department heads in some departments. FC members discussed the idea of implementing the proposed changes by request of the Department Head or faculty member under review. Dean Monk will consider feedback and FC members will continue to collect feedback from faculty during departmental meetings.
6. Comments by the Dean of the College:

- 6.1. Budget concerns relative to recent economic issues: State will be taking back 15 million of allocated funds to PSU. There are no hiring freezes and approved searches will continue. The College, however, is likely not in a position to authorize any new searches at this time.
- 6.2. Fiscal Officer search is progressing; an announcement will likely be made next week.
- 6.3. Humphrey Fellows program under review and Dean is pleased with progress.
- 6.4. NRC Rankings: NSF funded in collaboration with AERA. We may be asked to participate in the study. More to come on this item.
- 6.5. NASA visit beginning Friday, October 17.
- 6.6. Dean shared data requested during last FC meeting regarding administrative and faculty growth within the College. The number of full professors is rising while the number of assistant professors has declined. Academic administrators have been fairly stable over the past several years. Between 2006 and 2007 there has been a significant increase in fixed-term academic appointments, however, this is largely related to the NASA funding. The number of multi-year fixed term has also increased and this is not related to the NASA project. FC members discussed additional data options to more accurately consider whether fixed-term appointments are growing faster than standing academic appointments. In terms of standing staff appointments, there has been a shift to staff at higher-grade levels, and there is an increasing number of professional staff (e.g., academic advisors, alumni staff, HR).
7. Comments by the Associate Dean of the College
8. Reports From Standing Committees
  - 8.1. Committee on Graduate Studies and Research Policy [JoLynn Carney, Chair; Deb Smith, Vice Chair; Members: Dana Mitra (EPS), Fred Schied (LPS), Bonnie Meyer (ESPSE)]
  - 8.2. Committee on Curricular Affairs (Linda Mason, Chair; Nona Prestine, Vice Chair)
  - 8.3. Committee on Faculty, Staff and Student Concerns (Frank Rusch, Chair; Lisa Lattuca, Vice Chair)
  - 8.4. Ad Hoc Committee for elections (Ester Prins)
9. News from Senate – Dorie Evensen
10. Unfinished legislative business
11. New legislative business
12. Forensic business (issues of concern that a member would like to bring before the Council)
13. Comments and recommendations for the good of the College