

## **Faculty Council Minutes for Thursday, November 20, 2008**

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

1. Approval of the Minutes from October, 2008
2. Announcements by the Chair
  - 2.1. Election Updates – Linda Mason, FC Chair Elect; College P&T, Rick Duschl and Jim Nolan
  - 2.2. Newly appointed FC representatives –TBA (CI), Bob Hale (ESPSE)
  - 2.3. Request for comments to ITS leadership regarding scanning initiative; questions from Faculty. Learning performance systems noted concern that Senate should have taken a stand on this issue. Dean Monk stated that the initiative will be going back to the Senate.
  - 2.4. Request to reschedule April 16, 2009 meeting due to AERA. Meeting changed to April 23, 2009.**
  - 2.5. Blannie Bowen will attend FC on Feb. 19, 2009 to discuss HR 40 and peer review in five-year reviews. Dean Monk described the fifth year peer review as a University initiative that began about 8 years ago. The language in the Senate indicates that peer review “may” be conducted. Completion of a five year peer review will be a department decision. No deadline has been set for this initiative.
3. Communications to the Council
4. EDUCATE Update by Orrin Murray – The good news is that there have been no major issues. The student advisory board meets every other week. Feedback is consistently positive. Challenges include classroom application, such as the amplified effect of internet access. A plan for continuing professional development for less experienced instructors is under investigation. Carla recommended department-specific professional development opportunities that are open to all faculty, not just the EDUCATE faculty. Faculty Council will assist by advertising upcoming events. Contacts have been made with World Languages. Special Education is also piloting a class.
5. Comments by the Dean of the College
  - 5.1 Busy weekend for the college this weekend with a lot of alumni events.
  - 5.2 Budget. Expecting another round of reductions. Emily Martel is on board as financial officer.
  - 5.3 Scanning initiative. An explanation article for Connections is in draft format.
  - 5.4 Five current searches. Most candidates will be in prior to the holiday.
  - 5.5 Please notice the new sign. “Welcome to our garden...our quiet space.”
  - 5.6 Presentation of College positions/hiring data was continued.
  - 5.7 Elections. Voting franchise and timelines discussed and will be revisited. (see item #6)

## 5.8 Fixed-term faculty report from Senate

1. Governance – COE Faculty Council has bylaws that clearly attend to this. There is noted variation at the department level. We need to clarify what is happening at the department level and report informally.
  2. Promotion – No clear cut approach for promotion of fixed-term faculty. Dean Monk suggested looking at University procedure for lecturer to senior lecturer to address fixed term assistant to associate. Also suggested we examine “professor of practice” for promotion from associate to full.
6. Revision of by-laws (action item). It was recently observed that guidelines regarding fixed-term faculty and voting eligibility for the College P&T committee membership are broadly stated. A recommendation for revising by-laws to limit voting for the P&T committee to tenure-line faculty was made. Dean Monk also proposed revising bylaws so that College P&T committee election occurs first, prior to departmental committee election. This change would minimize/eliminate revision at the department level. Departments will be consulted and the revisions revisited at the December FC meeting.
7. First Year Seminar staffing (discussion item). Dean Monk noted that purpose of discussion is for consultation. Jackie reported that a 1 credit course, academic plus experience, will be developed for FYS. For example, in the DuBois model, students receive a “passport” that is validated when the student attends activities outside of the class.

The first goal of the FYS is to orient the students to the profession. Representatives from the undergraduate programs will meet to develop the 1 credit course. (Note: Project Leap that occurs in the summer will still remain available to students) The 1 credit course will reduce the difficulties of staffing the class. This is an opportunity to showcase the field. Bob Hale noted that most undergraduates change majors. The 20 new 1-hour courses would be shared across departments. Each department would submit four tenure-line faculty names for teaching each semester. The courses can be spread over semester in 15 hours or as a block (5 weeks). Consideration for FYS teaching as an overload, Dean Monk is exploring compensation methods.

Noted concerns: (1) Faculty investment into a rotating assigned 1 hour course; (2) Departments representing a program in which they have little knowledge; (3) Some departments currently include a 3 hour seminar in program [Can the general content be included so that an extra credit is not added?]; and (4) Higher Ed noted that research does not support the effectiveness of 1 hour credit.

It was noted that the experience component has the potential to enhance effectiveness. Bob noted technology also can enhance the experience, for example, having students watch video resources. Jackie stressed that these classes would not be scripted but would have curricular guidelines and materials (including online modules). It was suggested to leave staffing open for flexible teaching options (co-teaching, collaborative teaching, etc.). Each department will determine the “4 credit” giving autonomy for designated themes.

Jackie requested input (answers) regarding course staffing and consideration for staffing the classes proportionally.

## 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 (TBA, Chair; Nona Prestine, Vice Chair)

8.3. Committee on Faculty, Staff and Student Concerns (Frank Rusch, Chair; Lisa Lattuca, Vice Chair)

## 9. News from Senate – Bernard Badiali

9.1 The scan initiative remains in discussion phase.

9.2 Senate council asked about filling positions and building projects. No new initiatives are recommended for filling positions, however, current searches will remain. Current building projects are on previously obtained bonds, etc.

9.3 Good news – the number of student applications for Penn State remains high.

9.4 For students who are having financial difficulty, the Office of Student Aid does have emergency funds. Student Aid does have loan options.

9.5 CAPS – Denny will be speaking about this in the future.

9.6 First year seminar. Senate vote was close. The decision was made to keep the seminar but create an ad hoc committee to study this issue. The decision was made to keep the seminar (and objectives of the seminar) at the discretion of the colleges. To conclude, the first year seminar is still mandated but can be at 1 or 3 credit course.

9.7 Dr. Pell and the research committee is recommending 5 additional clock hours of research for graduate students. This initiative will come before the Senate. The initiative includes Masters students, for example, they will need to take ethics training. The initiative is driven by NSF policy. The College will make recommendations. Rayne noted that each department could monitor the additional clock hours on graduate requirement plan.

## 10. Unfinished legislative business

## 11. New legislative business

## 12. Forensic business

## 13. Comments and recommendations for the good of the College