

College of Education
Faculty Council
Minutes from Thursday, March 15, 2012
221 Chambers Building
2:30-4:30 p.m.

Members in attendance: Stephanie Serriere, Pam Wolfe, Jim Herbert, Orrin Murray, Simon Hooper, Fran Arbaugh, Ed Fuller, Beverly Vandiver, Shirley Woika, Bernard Badiali

Guest: Greg Kelly (for Dean Monk)

1. Approval of the minutes from February 16, 2012

The minutes were approved unanimously with no revisions.

2. Announcements by the Chair

- a. Announced the results of the College P/T election. Joining Fran Arbaugh, Pam Wolfe, and David Baker are Roy Clariana, Preston Green and Jamie Myers. The Dean will be announcing the selection of another member to the Committee in the coming weeks.
- b. Noted a call for nomination for representative for Graduate Council.
- c. Reminded that Faculty Council representatives for next year are needed from each department. These positions are for a two-year term.
- d. Made another call for chair-elect. No one has agreed to run for the position or has volunteered.

3. Communications to the Council: None

4. Comments by the Dean of the College

Dean Monk could not be here today, so Dean Kelly filled in for him:

- a. Dean Kelly provided a general report on the University. University's plan to reduce the budget by \$20 million, which would mean about \$350,000 of the College's permanent budget that must be returned to the University. This reduction goes into effect July 1. Faculty may receive a modest increase in salary in July as well. Applications to PSU are still good. The University's bond rating has not changed, an indication of good health of the university.
- b. Dean Kelly reports that faculty searches are continuing in the College. There is also a search for an associate director of development, which will be funded by Old Main. The College has done well in exceeding its development goals, hence the addition of another position to facilitate continued development work.
- c. Krauss Innovation Studio is open. Break-out groups can be scheduled as well as classroom spaces. Susan Land will be the interim director while Scott McDonald is on sabbatical for the next academic year.
- d. New College website has been launched. Faculty and students will be polled about its usefulness. There are concerns about the search engine not picking up common words and websites. There are mixed opinions about the aesthetics.
- e. Dean Assistantships. Usually the Dean has 7 assistantships available, but there are 9 good candidates this year. Thus, offers have been extended to 9 potentially incoming graduate students.

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- f. Dean Kelly summarized the current iteration of the RIF guidelines. As reported previously, a committee will be formed to guide the use of the funds as well as projects selected for funding. There is no fixed amount of funds to be directed to the departments. What will be sent to the departments will be a dynamic process and based on the committee's decision. The committee will be composed of people who are balanced in their research background, and possibly the same as the RIG committee. It was suggested that at least one person be *not* in the "funded research culture and community." Dean Kelly stressed that accountability and transparency will be reflected in the use of the RIFs. Faculty Council suggested that "marked celebrations" of funding faculty and noting receipts of grants might be useful and great for the morale of the College. Also discussed was the hiring of additional grant personnel (i.e. methodologist, proposal writers, post-award grant management, etc). Dean Kelly will be visiting the University of Wisconsin to see how the process works, specifically, the use of a proposal writer. The Dean has returned some funds back to PIs, again not a strict percentage but funds that had been built-in into the PIs grant. Faculty Council expressed its appreciation to the Dean for taking feedback and suggestions. Although the initial change in RIF procedures was not supported or considered ideal, the iteration to the current guideline is significantly better and reflects a responsiveness to faculty concerns.
- g. Director and Coordinator positions. No news about the positions were provided other than that four faculty members, representative from each department has been selected to work in conjunction with Jackie Edmondson on hammering out the logistics of the positions. These members are Richard Hazler (EPCSE), Glen Blume (CI), David Gamson (EPS) and Priya Sharma (LPS).
- h. U.S. News and World Report. Our overall ranking is primarily the same as last time, with some shifts.
- i. New publication on Early Childhood is in press.
- j. Faculty, Staff, and Student Awards ceremony is April 4th.
- k. Sarah Vowell, author and social commentator, is visiting on April 9th as a part of our arts initiative.
- l. Ron Tamales, Pennsylvania's Secretary of Education, is the College's spring commencement speaker. Faculty in attendance at the meeting expressed concern about the selection of the speaker. A conversation ensued about what the role of an invited speaker is: (a) subjecting students and parents to a commencement speaker antagonistic to their welfare; (b) necessity to have input from Faculty Council in the selection of commencement speakers; (c) the meaning behind the gesture (symbolic of support, freedom of speech, a bully-pit, not a two-way conversation).
- m. Faculty Initiated Contact Hours. See summary below.

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5. Reports of Standing Committees

5.1 Committee on Graduate Studies & Research Policy (Jerry Trusty, Chair): No report at this time.

5.2 Committee on Curricular Affairs (Stephanie Serriere, Chair): The draft of faculty initiated contact hours for distance education courses was discussed. When it was briefly presented at the last meeting, Faculty Council was unaware that the document originated from the College's committee, as there were no date and name on the document. Stephanie Serriere, chair of the committee, shared what she knew about the origin of the document. It arose out of concern about a proposed course, in which the teaching of the course would be through the use of a DVD. The document is intended to be an interpretation of existing University policy. SPLED especially seems to have some concerns about this document. There was some confusion and concern about this document's alignment with existing guidelines for practice in the World Campus. Larry Regan was cited as a source but it was unclear why he was cited and that according to a faculty member Larry Regan did not recognize why he was cited. The general consensus of Faculty Council was that the response to problem that could be easily resolved with the respective faculty member had morphed into a draconian guideline. Concerns were expressed about increasing faculty resistance and decreasing faculty morale. Faculty Council wants to revisit this issue with the Dean at the April meeting.

5.3 Committee on Faculty, Staff, and Student Concerns (Barbara Schaefer): Selection of awards for faculty, staff, and students have been made and the as indicated earlier, these awards will be given out on April 4.

5.4 Technology Committee (Simon Hooper, Chair): No new report.

6. Reports of special and ad hoc committees

6.1 Departmental representatives to Faculty Council (Fran Arbaugh): A formal vote was taken to approve the change in the by-laws from 10 faculty members must be in Faculty Council to 8 faculty members. The change was approved. Two more steps are needed to implement the change: (a) the Dean must approve of the change and (b) the proposed change must go to the College faculty for vote at the next fall faculty meeting (Fall 2012). If the dean doesn't approve of the change as well as if the faculty fails to approve the change in the number of faculty representatives, then the issue will be returned to Faculty Council to address.

7. News from Faculty Senate: (Beverly Vandiver):

The Board of Trustees's (BoT) chair and vice chair attended the March meeting, proposing some initial changes in the BoT and seeking input from faculty. They

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proposed to activate involvement of faculty on some of the BoT committees. Faculty Senate asked them to consider reconfiguring the body to include faculty representation. They stated that the firing of Paterno would no longer be discussed and they will be referring people to their website for their official position. A new website has been opened in the spirit of transparency that details expenditures in regard to the scandal.

8. Unfinished business:

- 8.1 Changes in RIF Guidelines (see Dean's Comments)
- 8.2 New departmental position (see Dean's Comments)
- 8.3 Representation of departments (see #6 above)
- 8.4 Update on current and future building renovations--deferred
- 8.5 Equitable workspaces for faculty throughout the College--deferred
- 8.6 Academic integrity—deferred

9. New business:

- 9.1 Forensic session (see below)

10. Forensic business:

The idea for the town hall meeting is that conversation should be about shared governance, communications, best practices, etc. The general consensus was that the fall might be a good time for the forensic session. Ed Fuller is the head of a special ad hoc committee to put something together for April. Fran will work with Ed.

11. Comments and recommendations for the good of the College:

There were none.

The meeting was adjourned around 4:30 p.m.

Submitted by Beverly J. Vandiver and Stephanie Serriere