Approved

Faculty Caucus Meeting Minutes

Tuesday April 16th, 2019

12:21 pm -1:38 pm, Room 2A04

Present:

Chairperson: W. Ashton

Senators: A. Barnes, J. Apkarian, L. D’Alotto, R. Dhar, N. Donahue, D. Deutsch-Keahey, E. Henry, W. Hughes, P. Massimino, D. McGee, R. McNickle, E. Meddeb, R. Nath, K. Neale, F. Pritchard, A. Profit, C. Sandoval De Leon, M. Sharpe, T. Simpson, E. Vasquez, G. Vasquez.

22 members were present including chairperson W. Ashton.

Agenda:

1. Chairs Report: W. Ashton

The general discussion started at 12:21 pm. At 12:37 pm, quorum was achieved and the meeting was called to order.

* Regarding the Strategic Planning Committee: On April 4th, the Faculty Caucus focus group was conducted. For those who could not participate on April 4th, there are other opportunities to contribute ideas through other forums until the end of April. Look on the website for opportunities.
* It was reported that comments were made to adjuncts to keep politics out of the classroom. This is an academic freedom issue. Several years ago the UFS tried to set up an Academic Freedom Committee at York, maybe we need a committee. D. Majerowitz is the representative on the newly installed Grievance Council.
* Elections will be held at the May meeting for the Senate standing committees.
* The three submitted charter changes will be implemented together. The changes will not be implemented until Fall 2020.

2. A. Barnes made a motion to accept the minutes of the prior meeting held on 3/19/2019, which was seconded and passed, all in favor with three absentions.

3. There was no UFS report.

4. Curriculum Report

* The Physician Assistant degree is now a Master’s Degree. The college stopped admitting students into the BS program in Fall 2016. BS courses (AVI) will be withdrawn to remove inactive course listings.

5. Follow-up on the WI Resolution.

* The resolution to have 20 students maximum per “Writing Intensive” class was not passed at the last Senate Plenary meeting, we were 2 or 3 votes short of the number needed. Comments included whether this resolution should be revisited, and whether the students understood the benefits. If we do not pursue it, the issue is dead.
* The resolution might have passed at the last plenary meeting, but the vote occurred at the very end of the meeting, and some senators left before the vote. A number of faculty were not present at all during that meeting. There are a total of 33 faculty senators; 27 were present at the March Plenary, 6 faculty senators were absent. Thirty-six votes are needed to pass a resolution.
* If we propose a resolution, we need to speak up for it, not just the chairperson. We must show support.
* There are different perspectives regarding whether senators should be voting their conscience, or voting based on the will of their department.

6. Forums are being held regarding the Chancellors report. In the future, there may not be a Chancellors report.

7. Promotion and Reappointment Guidelines.

* A document was discussed titled, “Expectations and Guidelines for Tenure, Promotion and Certificate of Continuous Employment for Faculty in all Ranks”.
* The feasibility of success considering the volume of requirements was questioned. Also, “chairing committees” is listed as a criteria, but there would be more faculty seeking promotion than the number of committees available to chair.
* Other criteria are subjective and could lead to arbitrary denials. For “Collegiality”, the same actions can be construed differently. A concern is that collegiality can be viewed as synonymous with agreeability or obedience.
* Discussion included that it can be risky for untenured faculty to take a stand against unpopular decisions made by the administration.
* The following Faculty Senators volunteered to serve on an ad hoc committee to review this document:
  + B. Ashton. A. Barnes, L. D’Alotto, E. Henry, E. Meddeb, P. Massimino, R. Pritchard, S. Rodgers (joined after the meeting).
* P. Massimino will contact volunteers to schedule a meeting.

8. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted by P. Massimino