Faculty Caucus Meeting Minutes

Tuesday November 19th, 2019

12:18 pm - 1:39 pm, Room 2A04

Present:

Chairperson: W. Ashton

Senators: M. Adams, L. Amaghionyeodiwe, J. Apkarian, W. Ashton, A. Barnes, L. Bradbury, N. Buxenbaum, A. Costley, L. D'Alotto, D. Deutsch-Keahey, R. Dhar, N. Donahue, L. Emtage, E. Henry, L. Keiler, P. Massimino, D. McGee, R. McNickle, E. Meddeb, T. Moore, R. Nath, A. Profit, A. Silva, C. Silva Sibilin, T. Simpson, Y. Small, E. Vasquez, R. Wojciechowski.

28 members were present including chairperson W. Ashton.

Guests Attending the Faculty Caucus Meeting:

L. Beaton (Curriculum/Biology)

S. Sheidlower (PSC Chapter Chair/Library)

Agenda:

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:18 pm.

2. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the meeting October 22nd. All were in favor of accepting the minutes.

3. Chair’s Report

* Chairperson W. Ashton welcomed all members and reviewed the agenda.
* The next regularly scheduled Senate Plenary meeting is Tuesday December 10th. The college President and Provost are attending a Middle States Conference on that day, and the Provost asked to change the Plenary to December 12th. There is a contingency in place to conduct the Plenary if the President cannot attend. Y. Small will survey senators to determine whether senators can attend a meeting on the 12th, or, if the Plenary should still be held on the 10th.
* The chair reported on the first 2 Strategic Planning sessions and encouraged more senators to attend the third on 12/2. He stressed that feedback from these forums will go into the final draft of the 3 year strategic plan and will guide budgeting and decision making for the next three years (and especially next year). The Strategic Plan has three goals: Helping Students Thrive, Signature Programs, and Creating a Welcoming and Vibrant Community. Those three goals have about 11 objectives and only one objective directly impacts faculty.
* Regarding last month’s President’s visit, there are several items of feedback from members:
* President Eanes appears to want to do the right things. However, two days after the President met with the Faculty Caucus, and said the new schedule grid would be investigated, the grid was implemented anyway. The P&B was told that the grid is a CUNY issue, but we learned it is not a CUNY issue. On the other hand, on October 22nd, issues in Institutional Advancement were discussed, and changes are happening there.
* Two departments reported that they can create 3 hour blocks to have “day” classes meet once per week for three hours, in contrast to what was said about limitations of the schedule grid.
* On October 22nd, the President said data would be collected regarding the new schedule grid. We need data. Members commented that it would be effective to have a student survey to collect accurate data regarding how the grid is impacting students. Also, it would be helpful for a committee to determine how the schedule impacts student and faculty retention, and student enrollment.
* Regarding the campus environment, there is a fence around the PAC for an emergency roof repair. The timeline is to finish the roof in December, and open the PAC in the spring. Bids have been put out.

4. PSC New Contract Vote

* Chairperson W. Ashton began the discussion about the proposed new contract for which adjuncts will receive a 40% increase.
* Some members have received an e-mail recommending a “no’ vote unless the adjuncts get an increase to $7000 per class.
* Scott Shiedlower (PSC Chapter Chair/Library) stated that the deadline is Tuesday to vote. If there is a “no” vote, then the process starts from zero.
* This contract covers 63 months, from 2017-2023. If anyone has questions, they can see Scott in the library.
* The City, the State and CUNY Board are in favor of this, so money will be received to pay for the increases.

5. Curriculum Report

* L. Beaton discussed new courses, prefix changes, the addition of a writing intensive course, a major and minor redesign, and a new minor in FAA Dispatcher within the Aviation Management program.

6. COACHE Report 2019

* Four years ago, it was difficult for faculty to get the COACHE data, and any negative results of the COACHE study were obscured and dismissed.
* For the 2019 study, between now and the end of January, there will be an Ad Hoc Committee to look at results, and make data driven recommendations. The members of the Ad Hoc Committee are; W. Ashton, L. Emtage, L. Keiler, and J. Apkarian. T. Shearin-Patterson, who was on the prior committee, will be asked if she would like to be on the committee.

7. Old Business – Other Ad Hoc Committees

* Possible next steps for the Ad Hoc Committee on Tenure and Promotion Guidelines will be discussed at the next meeting.
* Should there be an Ad Hoc Committee to review last month’s discussion on class cancellations? This will also be discussed at the next meeting.

8. New Business

* There was no new business.

9. Adjournment

* The meeting was adjourned at 1:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted by P. Massimino