

MINUTES/FACULTY SENATE MEETING

October 27, 2011

The Senate met on Thursday, October 27, 2011 at the Alumni House

Ralph Olliges, Faculty Senate President, Presiding

Members Present: John Aleshunas, Jef Awada, Glen Bauer, Maxine Bauermeister, Carla Colletti, Susan Heady, Dan Hellinger, John Orr, Stephanie Schroeder, Marty Smith, Eileen Solomon, Roy Tamashiro, Keith Welsh, Gwyneth Williams

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the October 6th Faculty Senate meeting were approved with changes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as amended. All were in favor; motion carried.

Announcements

Stephanie Schroeder reported that the GCPC will not be bringing an amendment regarding multiple skills to the Faculty Assembly on November 8. The form has been adjusted for a single skill per course. A very brief conversation took place regarding skill assessment.

Provost Schuster will attend the November 3rd Faculty Senate meeting to speak on program review.

Dr. Nancy Hellerud will speak on program review at the Council of Chairs meeting on November 7th. Glen Bauer mentioned that the Program Review Committee will have their first meeting on Friday, November 4th.

Ralph was approached by several individuals about the possibility of changing the Faculty Senate/Committee elections from paper to electronic. He has been working with the FDC to investigate the possibility and has a sample ballot for several of the Senators to try. If, after testing the sample ballot, the Senate thinks it is a good idea, the concept will be taken to the Faculty Assembly for approval. Voting electronically would only be done for the Senate and Committee elections. For electronic voting on other referendums, a motion would need to be brought forward to the Faculty Assembly. Concern was expressed regarding the need for an electronic audit trail. Ralph stated that he would speak to the FDC concerning this issue. Four Senators volunteered to try the sample electronic ballot: John Aleshunas, John Orr, Marty Smith, Roy Tamashiro.

Sasaki, the internationally recognized and celebrated planning and urban design firm, will be on campus on November 2nd at 3 p.m. in the Winifred Moore Auditorium to share Webster's Master Plan proposal and seek information.

Committee Appointments

With an opening on the Publication Board, a motion was made and seconded to appoint Kristen DiFate to serve until May 2012. All were in favor; motion carried.

Fall Institute

Glen Bauer gave an update on the planning of the Fall Institute. The Art Department will be contacted to let them know that space is available to set up an art exhibit. The food has been selected and arranged with Pere Marquette. After dinner entertainment has been scheduled. Glen is working with the technology department to make sure all of our technology needs can be met.

Faculty Assembly

Agenda items for the November 8th Faculty Assembly include: 1) insurance update by Joe Stimpfl and Mary Ann Drake; 2) Salary and Fringe Benefit Committee update by Joe Stimpfl; 3) research grant proposals – Dan Hellinger and Joe Stimpfl.

Committee Update

An update was given by the sub-committee that was formed to further investigate faculty status and governance. Working with the current University Handbook language, a working draft is being written to address the issues. Research is being conducted on how other schools have addressed the matter. It was suggested to share the working draft with Jim Brasfield and Dottie Englis to obtain their input. The working draft language will be edited and then brought back to the Senate at a later date.

Procedures for Obtaining Leaves and Sabbaticals

Research is being conducted concerning leaves. The overall philosophy is that you cannot receive leave until you have status or tenure and that you have to apply for leave after status/tenure has been approved. Faculty may request a leave simultaneous with the initial request for status. If a leave is deferred, when leave is taken, the clock starts toward a faculty member's next leave. There are several situations where deferment of leave is needed possibly for departmental or personal reasons. It is thought that new policy needs to be written to bring an end to faculty accruing more than one leave and possibly attach a time limit to how long they have to take their leave. Also include in the new policy language a statement that if an individual defers leave, the clock would not stop towards your next leave. An agreement needs to be arranged through each department that leave cannot just be deferred for whatever reason. Each department should also consider special circumstances in which faculty can accrue leave. The Senators were asked to look at a working draft on this issue and return feedback to Dan Hellinger.

Faculty Governance at other Webster Campuses

At the September 1st Faculty Senate meeting a conversation began concerning faculty governance on campuses outside St. Louis as well as ensuring quality academic programs on those campuses. A section in the University Handbook deals with faculty governance at other sites and the question was asked whether or not this section of the handbook has been shared with the extended campuses. The information has not recently been shared, but is available on the website and they have access to it. It is felt that faculty at the extended campuses should have some sort of recourse. A suggestion was made to engage the deans and department chairs in St. Louis that are responsible for curriculum/programs at the extended sites to see if they can sort through the issues and come up with an acceptable solution. This issue will be discussed further at the November 17th Faculty Senate meeting.

Honors Learning Community

Information was distributed on the Honors Learning Community.

Faculty Research Grants

A brief discussion took place regarding Faculty Research Grants. The fund was originally created to have a fund for research, teaching and developing curriculum. The format for proposals has been updated using Boyer's Model. It expands the items for which you can apply for grant funds, giving lower priority for development of a new course or outcomes for teaching.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting; meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.