

MINUTES/FACULTY SENATE MEETING

December 1, 2011

The Senate met on Thursday, December 1st, 2011 at the Alumni House

Ralph Olliges, Faculty Senate President, Presiding

Members Present: John Aleshunas, Jef Awada, Glen Bauer, Maxine Bauermeister, Mary Bevel, Carla Colletti, Scott Jensen, John Orr, Stephanie Schroeder, Marty Smith, Eileen Solomon, Keith Welsh, Gwyneth Williams

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the November 17th Faculty Senate meeting minutes as amended. All were in favor; motion carried.

Announcements

Ralph and Cynthia met with Betty Banstetter from Cedar Creek Conference Center on Wednesday, November 30th. Cedar Creek is located in New Haven, Missouri (between Washington and Hermann). Betty explained what type of facilities they offer for meetings and Ralph, Cynthia, Glen Bauer, John Orr, and Marty Smith will tour the facilities the week of January 9th to see if this facility is a possibility for a future Faculty Institute.

The Senators were given a list of the Faculty Senate meeting dates for 2012. A couple of the dates have changed from the previous list they were given.

The Senate luncheon will be Thursday, December 8th from 12:30-2:30 p.m. at Big Sky Café.

Committee Appointments

Dan Hellinger will be on leave for Spring 2012; a motion was made and seconded for Don Conway-Long to replace Dan on the Faculty Senate as an At-Large representative for the Spring 2012 term. All were in favor; motion carried.

Bruce Longworth will be on leave for Spring 2012; a motion was made and seconded for Gary Glasgow to replace Bruce on the GCP Committee for the Spring 2012 term. All were in favor; motion carried.

Electronic Elections

Ralph spoke to the Faculty Development Center with regard to an electronic audit trail if the Senate moves to electronic elections. An electronic audit trail should be able to reconstruct all the valid and invalid ballots in the event of needing a hand count. Ralph will follow up with the FDC and bring his findings to the January Senate meeting.

Procedures for Obtaining Leaves and Sabbaticals

Information was shared detailing a proposed amendment to the University Handbook regarding Procedures for Obtaining Leaves and Sabbaticals. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the language of the proposed amendment. It is felt that it is not completely clear as it currently reads. The main goal of the proposed amendment is to state that once you are granted status and you are eligible for leave and do not take that leave for whatever reason, your "clock" would stay on the original timeframe meaning you would not lose that time. This would prevent individuals from banking and then taking a year or more off with full pay. Keith Welsh was volunteered to work on the language of the proposal and will bring it back to the January meeting.

Subcommittee Update – What constitutes a faculty member?

A document was shared that had been updated since the last meeting. Much of the discussion concerned full-time faculty accepting an administrative role versus administrators that are hired in and what that involves as far as those that choose to return to faculty status after an administrative role. The current University Handbook does not cover the above situation. The subcommittee looked at four other schools'

handbooks to see how they handle the situation; all were different in their approach. Ralph was asked to contact Dr. Schuster and let him know that the subcommittee will be contacting him to set up a meeting to share the drafted document with him and obtain feedback.

New Business

Joe Stimpfl of the Salary and Fringe Benefits Committee asked Keith to announce to the Senate the issue of faculty overloads and asked if the Senators would speak to their Department Chairs to encourage faculty to take a brief survey about why they are teaching overloads. The SFB needs more information on overloads in order to know how to proceed. There are reasons to accept an overload other than to make more money, such as a department may need faculty to teach an extra course, faculty also teach in another department, have only one lab for a course so extra sections need to be offered. It is felt that building overloads into faculty's yearly contracts takes away flexibility that a department chair needs to manage courses.

Honors Learning Community

Sarah Tetley was asked to attend the meeting to share information about the Learning Communities and explain why Honors was used because Honors by definition is the prerogative of the faculty and has larger ramifications. Sarah informed the group that the name Honors Learning Communities will be officially changed to Scholars Learning Communities. She gave an overview of how the Learning Communities worked and then asked for any questions. She stated that the overall retention rate was 79 percent and 93 percent for those students in the Learning Communities. She thanked the Senators for allowing her to speak to them about the Learning Communities.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting; meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.