Faculty Senate Minutes

Time and Date: 2:30pm – September 10, 2015 - Thursday

Senators Present:

Business & Information Technology - Craig Dawkins
Janelle Montgomery
Kristen Wolfe

Engineering Science - Amy Hurst
Stephen Fowler
Bill Wilson
Cory Rubel
Tricia Popowski

Humanities - Angie Keneda
Emily Robinson
Kevin Caliendo

Social Sciences - Joe Campbell
Kim Queri
Misty Englebrecht
Carolyn Cuskey

Health Sciences - Kristen Pope

Adjunct-

Call to Order: Amy Hurst called the meeting of September 10, 2015 to order at 2:31pm.

Approval of Minutes: Craig Dawkins motioned for approval, seconded by Kevin Caliendo, motion approved.

Treasurers Report: Emily Robinson reported that the balance of funds for the Faculty Senate is $6,233.35.

Committee Reports:

1. Discussion and possible action related to committees.
   • Misty Englebrecht updated the Senate on the Assessment Committee. The Committee is setting up a schedule for program assessment on three year intervals.
   • Misty stated that she will email a detailed update to the Senate.

Old Business:

1. No Old Business was discussed.

New Business:

1. Discussion and possible action related to the dates, times and location for the 2015 – 2016 Faculty Senate meetings.
   • Amy Hurst proposed, the first Thursday of each full week of the month at 2:30pm.
• Amy proposed the following dates and times for Faculty Senate meetings during the 2015-2016 academic year: October 8th, November 5th, February 4th, March 10th, April 7th.

• Craig Dawkins motioned to approve dates, times and locations, seconded by Kim Queri, motion approved.

2. Discussion and possible action related to the dates, times and location for the 2015 – 2016 Faculty Senate meetings with Dr. Webb.

• Amy Hurst informed the Senate that the tentative schedule for the meetings with Dr. Webb are as follows: September 24, 2015; October 29, 2015; December 3, 2015; February 23, 2015; March 29, 2015; April 26, 2015.

• Craig Dawkins motioned for approval of dates, seconded by Joe Campbell, motion approved.

3. Discussion and possible action related to campus schedule and the assignment of faculty (full-time and adjunct) to courses.

• Craig Dawkins mentioned that at a recent meeting of Academic Affairs Dr. Hendrix stated that a Dean may not list a faculty person next to a course and leave the “instructor” listed as staff.

• Craig cited some concerns regarding this policy, what is enough time for an instructor to prepare for a course, if they are not assigned the course and listed prior to the beginning of enrollment.

• In addition, Craig is concerned that this policy may serve as a dis-service to the student because many students wish to take a course from a particular instructor. As a policy it is a bad idea.

• Steven Fowler posed the question, what is the reasoning behind this change in policy?

• Craig Dawkins cited a recent conversation with Dr. Hendrix in June of 2015 and believed it was a budgetary issue and she had problems in the past with how divisions had scheduled their classes and enrollment.

• Amy Hurst cited an email that the college has purchased new software called “college scheduler” which will be active in the spring of 2016. Focusing the scheduling process more on the best schedule for the student and less emphasis on selecting their schedule based upon instructor.

• The Senate decided that it will put the issue on the agenda for the September 24th meeting with Dr. Webb.

4. Discussion and possible action related to partial pay schedule.

• Several members of the Senate commented that they thought that partial pay was a dead issue, citing the February 2014 meeting minutes and the lengthy discussion.

• Amy Hurst explained that it is on the agenda again due to some general discontent among some faculty members because the threshold for full pay for a course had been changed from the original seven students in spring of 2014 to eight to ten and back to seven this semester.

• The Senate discussed their major contention with the policy: If a faculty member cannot negotiate its pay going up then the college should not be able to negotiate a faculty members pay down based upon class size.

• The Senate discussion asserted that the policy only saves pennies and creates more problems than it solves. The problem is with specialty courses that are potentially offered once a year and have lower enrollment. Many instructors would prefer to schedule courses they know will get the requisite ten students rather than schedule a specialty course, required for graduation, that my only offer them partial pay.

• Craig Dawkins suggested that non-tenured faculty may feel they have to teach a low enrollment course for partial pay to avoid a negative perception among their colleagues.
• Several members of the Senate suggested that this policy kills faculty morale, if college decides to teach the course they should pay, whoever they hire to teach the course, full pay. As long faculty cannot negotiate more pay for a larger class then the college should not be able to ask faculty to negotiate their pay down to teach a smaller class.

5. Discussion and possible action related to signage at north entrance of campus off of 15th (near Traub).

• Amy Hurst suggested that the college has completed many updates but there are still some signs that look really bad.

• It was noted that the sign at the north entrance is broken and looks really bad. Having no sign is better than having a broken sign.

• Make recommendation to Dr. Webb to have sign removed.

**Call to Adjourn:** A motion was made to adjourn at 3:30pm, the motion was seconded and all were in favor.