

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Penn State Worthington Scranton

February 19th, 2014

The meeting was called to order at by Faculty Senate Chair, Majid Chatsaz at 12:04pm. A motion to approve the January 21st, meeting minutes was made by Durell Johnson & Michael Evans.

Administrative Reports

Chancellor Report

- There is a new President, Eric Barron, who will come into office in May. He was a Dean of Earth & Mineral Sciences.
- As an update on the University & Campus Strategic Planning, committee members are in full swing. The three goals that are showing up in the strategic plans are: 1). Improving Academic Excellence 2). Increasing Enrollment on the Campus to two thousand and 3). Understanding & Working on Student Engagement. We have diversity, sustainability and budget and they are attempting to be integrated into the first three goals. Our goal is to have everyone see what this strategic plan looks like. We would like to have all components completed by April and before commencement. Our plan must be submitted July 1st, 2014. The University in parallel is working on promoting our health, transforming education, looking toward what technology we need for the future as far as emerging themes. The University has an extra year and after our plan is submitted, the University committee will select emerging themes that can be integrated into the University strategic plan.
- Submissions have been coming in for award nominations. Please continue to submit these nominations so that we have a successful awards dinner.
- If you are thinking about doing research in the summer, it is a good time to write the proposal to move forward with your research and ahead of your faculty activity report letter.
- The Library renovation will be done in a phased approach. The athletic field, wellness center and gym are all being renovated. We are phasing in a computer lab. First it will be upstairs and the computers will shift downstairs. For clarification in regards to the André Prévos Collection , the university reviewed books and selected out which ones to maintain and the others will be integrated back into the circulated books. There will be no designated area as the library will need the space. The plaque will remain and the books still will have his name in them.
- The Athletic Field groundbreaking will be April 25th at noon. Please attend this event. A representative from his family will be at groundbreaking.
- Durell Johnson asked the question of what will the growth enrollment to two thousand will look like. Also the infrastructure is very different to what we have now. The Chancellor responded that the corporate communications and psychology programs will add two to three hundred students over four years. Also retention is very important. Our baccalaureate programs are

strongest at our campus. Our campus started as a two year institution and over the last fourteen years we have converted most programs to a baccalaureate degree and with nursing we offer a master's degree. When the Chancellor came here there were two thousand students and it will and can be done in a thoughtful way. Each faculty member has a role to play for the direction of the campus over the next five years.

- Majid asked about hiring for the increased growth. A quarter of a million dollars will be needed for parking. A full psychology line will be hired. Our enrollment is positive but we are also supporting other campuses where there enrollment is poor. This opens the door for a discussion with program coordinators to discuss enrollment and growth.

Chief Academic Officer

- Dr. Patrick welcomed faculty and staff. He began by addressing Durrell's question and stated that growth is the key. We have an advantage to converting a large majority of students into four year students. From academic affairs perspective, they have to examine the programs growing and may need to pull resources from programs who are not growing. The budget doesn't go up until the students come in. Then we can look at expanding faculty, space and logistical issues. We are asked to look at not reducing enrollment and what role each faculty has individually.
- Dr. Patrick urged faculty to move in the direction of research and if we have asked if you to increase your scholarship, this will be opportunity to do so. Also in March the research and teaching call for grant proposals will be due about mid April.
- Recently, an email was sent by Dr. Patrick that came from Patrick Tanner, a member of the general education taskforce. They are coming to campuses to talk about general education classes. If you are teaching general education classes we want to include students in this discussion. **We need faculty teaching general education to respond.**
- Spring Open houses are coming up. If you need service please attend.
- A January 31st, 2014 deadline was put in place for supporting documents and still some documents have not been submitted.
- **Dr. Patrick is disappointed at the Faculty Senate Meeting Attendance. He encourages faculty to come to this once a month meeting at a time when classes are not scheduled. This is the time at the faculty meeting to come to ask questions, get information and hear from the committees. Thank you for those that are in attendance and please tell your colleagues to participate in attendance.**
- Fred Aebli stated that there is a clear apathy. If we want growth we have to have everyone buy in. We have poor attendance here. The students are feeling it. This begins with us and we need to be involved. Last year the pool of applicants for the awards was very poor. As part of the strategic plan we will need to work on this united with buy in.
- **Lastly, for the record Dr. Patrick stated that we have a lot of discussions at these meetings. He receives questions from faculty that do not attend the meetings and they did not hear questions and answers from colleagues. We need to pull together and if you are excluded from this conversation, it will be very difficult to grow.**

- Durell stated that there are mechanisms in place. We have a senate council in place and they should manage the strategic plan of the senate. A strategic plan has not been published. They can expunge inactive members of committees. It begins with who we elect to run the senate from year to year and how well are we utilizing the tools.

Assistant Chief Academic Officer

- Mike Evans announced that the Book Club meetings are mainly on Wednesdays from 4pm-530 in Dawson 10. The book we are reading by Stephen Brookfield, "Becoming A Critically Reflective Teacher." On April 16th he will skype or zoom in to talk about his book and ways on how to improve your teaching. Even if you are not part of the book club you can still attend or pick up the book in the library.
- Also, Mike Evans expressed appreciation for participating in the part-time faculty peer review process. Also appreciation was given in regards to the peer mentoring of adjunct faculty. They are very thankful for the assistance everyone gives them and the resources available.

University Officers

- Fred Aebli Faculty Senate did not meet in February and will be meeting in March. If you have any questions please let Fred, Durell or Pat Hinchey know.
- The Chancellor stated that University is also doing a university strategic plan. The chancellor asked how is the university faculty senate involved in developing the university strategic plan. Fred Aebli reported that the last meeting involved a taskforce about the new election of the president's selection of healthcare benefits. There is some split in the senate. The Chancellor stated that the campaign will be finished in April and that the two to three million dollars should have faculty involved in where the money is spent.

Standing Committee Reports

Majid expressed the concern about the lack of faculty participation. An email was sent asking for the input as far as the governance members who met last week. Twelve campuses met and the issues were as follows: general education reform, teaching loads, program enrollment growth, healthcare initiative, new programs and online SRTE's. As far as general education reform, one campus had a concern if we limit general education themes because of under enrollment, then there won't be a variety of themes for students. It was also stated that we have themes creativity, thinking reason and there were strong comments and people against developing new themes. There was also questions of who will generate these themes. Also there was question if there is uniform policy regarding work load. Discussion involved workloads of fixed term 4/4 for eight a year and 3/3 for six for the year for tenured faculty. There should be input from faculty for the creation of new programs and consulted with administrative decisions. Also the online SRTE's, many campuses do not have more than 50% response rate. Pen and pencil was mentioned but decided not to return to that. Majid had a 95% and 100% return rate. He reminded students the last three weeks of classes and explained the need for their participation. A phone application may have a greater student response or reserve lab time with someone other than faculty to see that the evaluations are filled out.

Curricular Affairs- No report

However Dr. Patrick explained there will be a meeting for corporate communication and that the faculty is owned by the faculty.

Faculty Affairs

Gina Gray stated that there is a policy for workload 4-4 for fixed term and 3-3 for tenure track. In addition a reminder that the campus Ombudsman representative is Paul Perrone and Todd Adams as an alternate. Staff members have Gene Grogan as their resource. The scholarship expectations for the fixed term faculty is currently being reviewed for clarification purposes and will share in March or April.

Special Committee Reports-

Student Affairs-Fred Aebli thanked Michelle Schutt for assisting with preparing the awards documentation. The deadline for submission of the awards is February 28th, 2014. Also selection rubrics were applied.

Advising-No Report

Diversity-No Report

Honors-No Report

International-No Report

Undergraduate Research

Mike Evans stated that Milt Evans sent out an email about the undergraduate fair and the website is now live. If you navigate to our website, then academics, undergraduate research will be there. Registration for judging will also be there. Please use this opportunity as service. Thanks to IT for assisting.

April 10th is the local Undergraduate Research Fair. April 17th is the Regional Symposium and looking forward to these great events. Please have your students apply. Asif Ud-Doula announced that there will be a Keynote Speaker, Dr. Richard Adley, University of Academy of Sciences member and a member of the team winning the Nobel Prize in 2007. He will be presenting via skype in at 1pm on April 17th and discussing Global Climate Change. Please encourage your students to attend.

Scholarship

Paul Perrone announced that they are working on two fronts: 1). Incoming freshman and 2). Upper class scholarships which are very competitive requiring community service or university services. A scholarship application form can be picked up outside of Mary Beth Benedict's office. An email was sent out to every upper class student to fill out a form. He is encouraging faculty to encourage their advisees.

New Business

Caressa Gearhart shared information about Advising week in March. Faculty will be receiving details via email. Many of these events are encouraging DUS students to transition to your programs. This is an excellent opportunity for growth, retention etc. The Advising council has been working on the schedule. Please plan on participating.

Announcements

Asif also stated that students may not know what opportunities are available to them. Main campus offers a scholarship for undergraduate research over the summer. Students can have a paper published at the end of the summer. Majid also encouraged the faculty to let students know about opportunities for science math and technology as well.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Byman and seconded by Michael Evans at 1259pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Justina M. Ferguson MSN., RN

Faculty Senate Secretary