

## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Penn State Worthington Scranton

March 20, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 by Faculty Senate chair, Beatriz Rivera-Barnes. A motion to approve the minutes from the February meeting was made by Janet Melnick and seconded by Renee McNair.

### Administrative Reports

#### Chancellor

1. Dr. Mary-Beth Krogh-Jespersen said that a Library Task Force will be formed in the fall to work out the details of the planned library renovation, which will cost an estimated one to two million dollars. Since we have recently contacted donors for donations to the renovation of the athletic facilities, it is not feasible to approach donors for the library renovation at this time. Therefore, the renovations to the library will be phased in in pieces over a period of years. Dr. Krogh-Jespersen asked for volunteers to serve on the Task Force. She said the group should be composed of people who often frequent the library as well as those who prefer to use the services online. Billie Walker, interim head librarian, is in the process of writing a program/mission statement that outlines the parameters of the renovation, funding and procedures. The chair of the Task Force will report to the Faculty Senate. If you have an interest in serving on the Task Force, please let Dr. Krogh-Jespersen or Billie Walker know.
2. Dr. Krogh-Jespersen said that the campus will be required to recycle 1% of the campus budget back to University Park. That amount may increase to 2%, so the Directors and Program Coordinators have been asked to design a budget that addresses the 1% reduction as well as one that considers a 2% reduction. However, Dr. Krogh-Jespersen said that this should not discourage faculty from putting in requests to their Program Coordinators for what they need.
3. Award nominations are due April 6. At this point, there have been no nominations for the advisory board teaching award, and Dr. Krogh-Jespersen asked faculty to consider nominating someone. She also said that research proposals for summer and fall are also due at that time.
4. Marla Scranton, a Penn State graduate, has accepted an invitation to serve as commencement speaker.
5. Matt McGloin and his family were on campus last Friday and pictures were taken. As previously announced, our renovated baseball field will be named in Matt's honor. (He played baseball before starring in football at Penn State.) Matt said that he was willing

to come to campus, as his schedule allows, to talk to students about leadership. Dr. Krogh-Jespersen told Russell Casey to let Dave Burnis know about this invitation.

### Chief Academic Officer

1. Dr. Charles Patrick said that faculty need to inform his office any time a class is being cancelled.
2. Dr. Patrick congratulated Renee Bishop on her successful experiment in “flipping” her Biology 110 class. With the assistance of Griff Lewis, Renee designed lectures that students accessed online before class, thus freeing class time for discussion, questions and application of the material. As a result of the new method of delivery of the material in this difficult class, test scores increased significantly. Dr. Patrick suggested other faculty follow Renee’s example. (Griff Lewis is available for assistance.)
3. Two people have accepted offers for faculty positions: Dr. Agnes Kim in physics and Dr. Yili Lian business. (Offers are tentative until signed contracts are received.) The IST candidate who was offered the position declined, and the committee did not wish to offer the position to any of the other candidates, so the search will be reopened in the future.
4. At the April Faculty Senate meeting the faculty will need to vote for four members to join the P and T committee with three open positions and one person on sabbatical.
6. Dr. Patrick announced that any requests for funding that had been submitted to this point have been approved. He stressed the importance of the campus using funds in the 2012-13 budget that must be used by the end of the fiscal year or returned to University Park. This money can be used for such things as equipment, supplies and furniture. In light of the reduction in campus funding announced earlier by Dr. Krogh-Jespersen, which is a permanent reduction, not just limited to a one-time return, Dr. Patrick strongly encouraged faculty to apply for money now, which most certainly will not be available in the future.
7. Soon faculty will be receiving an e-mail with details for applying for research and teaching grants. The proposals will be due in April with decisions to be made over the summer.
8. Dr. Patrick said that he will be recommending people for the teaching and research awards and encouraged others, as Dr. Krogh-Jespersen had, to nominate themselves or colleagues for those awards.
9. In answer to a question Dr. Patrick said that money that comes into the campus from those who teach online courses cannot be used to help offset the 1% reduction in campus funding, which must come from “permanent” fund sources as the income from online courses comes from “temporary” fund sources.

## Committee Reports

### Advising Committee

1. Caressa Gearhart distributed the Advising Plan while Russell Casey talked about the process of compiling it. He thanked those who had taken part in the process (names on the cover page of the plan). Russell asked for a motion to accept the plan as the official advising plan for the campus. It was so moved by Dave Byman and seconded by Mark Banaszek.
2. Russell said that Advising Week will be held the week of April 1. (A flyer of the agenda for the week was distributed as well as the schedule for college meetings.) The format will be basically the same as that of the fall with the exception that Program Coordinators will be asked to determine what they want to do for the college meetings. Ideas of what to do for those meetings will be sent to Program Coordinators. The major and minor fair will be held April 3. While not on the printed agenda, Russell said that a meeting for first year students will be held prior to the major and minor fair where students will be fed and then escorted to the fair.
3. Sandy Feather asked if the advising plan would be part of orientation for new faculty in the summer and the answer was that is the intent.
4. Sandy also asked how the Advising Week activities would be marketed to students. Caressa said that she has been working on marketing and publicity with intern, Amy Smith. One thing they definitely plan to do is stop in to some classes which have students who would most benefit from attending the activities of the week.
5. Dr. Patrick said he wished to clarify that the advising plan is a plan, not a policy as stated on the cover of the report.

### Enrollment Management

Sandy Feather shared statistics (see e-mail sent the day of the meeting) that demonstrate that our campus is faring well in recruitment efforts with our paid to this date up 17% over last year at this same time. This rate of increase ranks our campus second only to U Park. Sandy thanked everyone for their efforts in making this increase possible. She said this month is the most critical for enrollment. Her department is busy calling all offers once a week to turn those offers into paid enrollments. A new approach has involved extending an invitation to 200 top-tiered accepted students to attend the upcoming campus student research fair. Sandy reminded everyone of two upcoming Open Houses—Sunday, March 24, and Sunday, April 14, both at 1:00 in the Café. She asked that everyone keep up their efforts to assure that currently enrolled students stay enrolled.

## Student Affairs

Fred Aebli reported on a recent meeting of the committee, attended by Michele Schutt and Matt Nied. The committee discussed the apathy on campus, the need for students to connect to the campus and for faculty and staff to find ways to get students more involved. This apathy, it was noted, applies not just to students but to faculty and staff as well. Faculty and staff need to set the example by attending events and showing their campus involvement with clubs and other activities. This discussion was triggered partly by the resignation of certain SGA officers, an occurrence that has happened more than once previously. It seems as though we are depleting our pool of potential leaders. It is also reflected in the fact that only one student has been nominated for announced student awards. The committee felt that faculty and staff need to encourage students with ability to get involved with clubs and student government. They also felt there was a need to find ways to keep students on campus between classes.

Michele Schutt addressed the resignation of three members of the boards of the SGA. She said they had resigned because they had become overwhelmed. She said students who do not have club experience do not understand how student government works and when they find out all the steps that need to be taken to achieve anything, they get discouraged. She said that faculty should encourage students to get involved at the club level (interest in clubs is waning) as SGA should not be a student's first experience with student governance.

As a final comment, Fred said that these are the issues the Faculty Affairs committee will continue to work on.

## Other Business

Beatriz Rivera-Barnes announced that a new vice-chair and a secretary need to be elected by the next Faculty Senate meeting in April. At that time Majid Chatsaz will assume the chair position. Gail Keating, former Faculty Senate chair, encouraged people to consider running for office. She said her experience had been very interesting and rewarding and that she learned a lot. Russell Casey and Dave Byman said they would both be willing to run for vice-chair. Candidates are still needed for the secretary position. Beatriz said she would set up the voting when the slate of officers running is complete.

## University Faculty Senate

1. Fred Aebli reported that at its recent meeting the University College Faculty Council discussed the low digital SRTE response rates and what faculty can do to increase the rates.

2. In the fall 2013 faculty will be required to demonstrate their knowledge of FERPA by completing a quiz on ANGEL. Failure to do so will prevent access to eLion.
3. In the spring of 2014 veterans will be given priority in registration for classes.
4. If someone retires, he or she may not teach online courses through the World Campus if they are in the state system (SERS).
5. Sequestration may/may not have an impact of Federally-funded research grants.
6. Anyone interested in reading the special report on governance presented at the meeting may access this url: <http://www.senate.psu.edu/agenda/2012-2013/mar2013/appd.pdf>
7. More reports will be placed online for advance reading, and an anonymous discussion board will be created for people to comment on informational reports.
8. Russell Casey asked if there are any statistics that reveal the level of response rate for our campus. As a tenure-track faculty, he said he feels it would be useful to be able to say how his response rate for various courses compares to the campus response rates. Alan Peslak said there are some stats but they haven't really been examined or formalized. He said he would look into the issue.
9. Marlene Soulsby, alternate Faculty senator, serving while Pat Hinchey is on sabbatical, said that a lot of discussion took place regarding the SRTEs and the fact that they are the primary way that faculty teaching is evaluated. One thing is for sure: we are not going back to paper and pencil. So we do need to find ways to increase response rates that might better reflect the quality of the teaching for various courses.
10. Dr. Patrick stated that SRTEs are definitely not the best way to judge teaching and we need to concentrate on better ways to evaluate teaching. He mentioned that other campus CAOs have said they look particularly at syllabi and/or look at the longevity of the SRTEs—how they have changed over time—rather than just one particular year's . He has already told faculty that he will be looking for faculty to target an objective on their syllabus and then show how they meet the objective in the course delivery. He said he is open to any suggestions anyone has as to how to better evaluate faculty teaching effectiveness.
11. Alan Peslak said that one thing that certain faculty do to raise response rates is to take students to a computer lab to have them completed. Dale Holen said that other campuses weren't allowed to do that. Dr. Patrick said that we certainly can do it here; there is no policy against it.
12. Marlene Soulsby said that a mid-semester assessment might be used as a complement to the FARs and asked if they could be used that way. Dr. Patrick said that, although it may not be possible to formally incorporate such a mid-semester assessment into the FAR form, homegrown instruments are a good idea. Faculty should be seeking feedback from students throughout the semester as any feedback from students is always helpful to faculty looking to improve.

13. Marlene said that changes are coming to our healthcare benefits in 2014. Two that were discussed at the Senate meeting she attended were penalizing people for self-destructive behaviors such as smoking and requiring spouses who work to take insurance with their company rather than with Penn State. These changes have not been finalized but they are being discussed.

A motion to adjourn was made at 12:55 by Mark Banaszek and seconded by Dave Byman.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Harper

Faculty Senate secretary