

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Penn State Worthington Scranton
January 18, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 by Faculty Senate Chair, Beatriz Rivera Barnes.

Minutes of the December 2011 meeting were approved.

Administrative Reports

Chancellor

1. Chancellor Dr. Mary-Beth Krogh-Jespersen, in speaking of the Governor's recent 1% budget reduction, said that the campus is trying to find out whether that amount will come out of this year's budget or next year's. She said that the implication is that a freeze may be put on hiring and urged the search committees for the nursing and math positions to move quickly to fill those positions.
2. The Core Council Response has been sent to main campus. Links to the Response as well as the University College Core Council Report and the PSWS Campus Specific Report were sent recently in an e-mail to all. Dr. Krogh-Jespersen encouraged everyone to read these documents.
3. Dr. Krogh-Jespersen asked that the Faculty Senate invite the Task Force on New Programs to the campus Senate Executive Council to explain what has been done to find new academic programs to extend to our campus.
4. The Board of Trustees will be conducting its annual meeting on the campus on July 12 and 13. The theme will be Empowering Our Students. Dr. Krogh-Jespersen asked that anyone who be conducting tours on the 13th from 11:-30 to 1:30 to let her know.

Acting Director of Academic Affairs

1. Dr. Molly Wertheimer said that, because of glitches in the system, the deadline for submission of the FARs had been extended to Friday, January 20. She suggested that everyone run a report in hard copy because that is the version that she and others will see. She said people may need to "tweek" the report after viewing its appearance.
2. Dr. Wertheimer said that Assif ud-Doula, who is in the second year tenure review process, will be the first person on campus to have his dossier generated through Digital Measures. She said that those up for fourth and sixth year review in the fall will have the choice of using the traditional method or Digital Measures but that after that all tenure review materials will be generated through Digital Measures.

3. Dr. Wertheimer said that Dr. Michael Michalisin, Business Program Coordinator, is on leave for the semester, and his classes are being conducted by other faculty members.
4. Dr. Wertheimer invited Billy Walker, Interim Director of the Library, to share a few words. Mr. Walker said he hopes to make the library the heart of the campus and asked everyone to help him achieve that purpose. He also said that the library has some money in its budget to buy resources, and invited people to let him know what they might want him to purchase
5. Dr. Wertheimer announced that Caressa Olivo Gearhart has accepted the position of Advising Center Manager and will join the campus shortly. Dr. Wertheimer said that later that day she would be meeting with Allison Burns, Eileen Giovognoli, Sandy Feather and Gary Edstrom to create a transition plan for Ms Gearhart as the campus rethinks its advising process.
6. Dr. Wertheimer announced that the campus now has a Co-Curricular Committee chaired by her and Sandy Feather. She said the committee is examining what we do on campus with new students from the initial offer letter, through FTCAP, Orientation, FYE, Co-curricular transcripts and more.
7. Dr. Wertheimer introduced Sandy Feather to speak on the issue of retention. Sandy said that we had lost 712 students since last year; 190 graduated, 132 moved to other campuses, and 82 transferred to another institution, leaving 390 not graduating, 222 being baccalaureate students. She said the Core Council report indicates that retention is a key area of concern for the campus. This issue will be addressed by the FTCAP/Orientation Group, the Advising Committee and the Co-Curricular Programming Committee.

Committee Reports

None

Old Business

Dr. Wertheimer said that with the newly revised constitution the committee structure has changed. Dr. Gail Keating said that the constitution was approved by the sub-committee at U Park. She said there will now be four standing committees: Curricular Affairs, Faculty Senate, Student Affairs and Tenure and Promotion. All other committees will be classified as special committees: Scholarship, Honors, Diversity, Academic Advising, Undergraduate research, and International Programs. Dr. Keating asked that Joe Fennewald, former head librarian, be acknowledged for all the work he put into the revision of the constitution.

Dr. Wertheimer said that people should think about what committees they would like to participate in. In the near future everyone will be contacted regarding their choices. Committee membership is two years with the option for an additional two-year commitment. A question was raised about whether the two-year rule was retroactive but an answer was not arrived at.

New Business

1. Dr. Rivera-Barnes announced that we need to elect two University Faculty Senate members—one for a two year term, to expire in 2014, and one for a four-year term, to expire in 2016. Alan Peslak and Durrell Johnson's names were proposed as having shown interest in the positions. Dr. Dale Holen, who has held the position for twelve years, and does not wish to continue in the position, explained the nature and obligation of the position. Dr. Wertheimer said that anyone who is in tenure track or in line for promotion to senior instructor should look at these positions as an opportunity for University service, important in the promotion process. A discussion followed about how to decide who would hold the two-year position and who would hold the four-year. No decision was made regarding that point. Dr. Deb Smarkusky said she believed that more than two candidates were needed. Mark Banaszek said his name could be added to the ballot. Dr. Rivera-Barnes said she would send out a memo to see if any more people are interested in running. It was decided the vote would take place by electronic ballot.

[Follow-up: In an e-mail from Dr. Durrell Johnson, dated January 25, Dr. Johnson referred to a section of the University Senate Constitution that would indicate that three candidates for the two positions would be sufficient. Dr. Johnson also suggested that the person who receives the most votes be given the four-year position and the second highest vote getter be given the two-year position with the third candidate serving as an alternate.]

2. Ryan Moskalczak, Information Technology Specialist, showed a video he had prepared for students demonstrating how to get an audit on eLion. He put in a plug for the campus's media lab, where he had prepared the video. A point was made that students using the video would still need to see an advisor. A discussion ensued as to the best way to make the video available to students. Sandy Feather suggested that the FTCAP/Orientation committee be made aware of the video so that they can perhaps find a way to work it into the FTCAP process. [Follow-up: Ryan will be showing the video to the FTCAP/Orientation committee meeting on Friday, February 10.]

3. Dave Byman gave a report from the University College Council. He said the Council discussed three things:

a. Teaching work loads. Study showed that the work loads are fairly consistent throughout the system. On some campuses there is a concern about who gets a T-Th schedule.

b. Monitoring of online SRTes. There is a concern about the accuracy with lower response rates from the traditional in-class forms. In particular, there is concern about students who have not been in class on a regular basis still being able to complete online evaluation.

c. Remedial courses. There was general agreement that remedial courses are important to our students and that their elimination would impact retention.

4. Jeff Mallas, chair of the Director of Student Affairs Selection Committee, announced that three candidates for the position will be interviewing on campus:

*Dr. Michelle K. Schutt, Wednesday, February 12

*Dr. Laura Pantano, Thursday, February 2

*Dr. Bryan Valentine, Monday, February 13.

These candidates are coming from Wyoming, Texas, and Pittsburgh. Each will present in D 10 from 11:00—11:20 A.M. Each presentation will be followed by a question and answer period from 12:00 to 1:00 in the Sherbine Lounge.

Secondly, Mr. Mallas announced that faculty would be receiving a list of student athletes and asked that faculty let him know if anyone is not performing adequately in their course.

Mr. Mallas also announced that a new athletic website would be online the week of January 23. The site will give people the ability to see game times, statistics, player information, schedule changes and much more.

5. Matt Nied, Assistant Director of Unions, Programs and Student Activities, requested applicants for the following awards: the Patrick J. Rose Award for excellence in leadership and service, the Greater Scranton Penn State Chapter "Pride of Lions Award, and the Eric A. and Josephine S. Walker Award. Applications can be made to the Office of Student Activities before February 17.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Harper

Faculty Senate Secretary