

culty Senate Meeting Minutes
Penn State Worthington Scranton
April 24, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 P.M. by Faculty Senate Chair, Beatriz Rivera-Barnes. Minutes of the March 22, 2012 were approved as submitted.

Administrative Reports

Chancellor

1. Chancellor Mary-Beth Krogh-Jespersen thanked faculty and staff for all their efforts in promoting student success. She thanked everyone who had nominated anyone for any of the faculty/staff awards and encouraged attendance at the Honors/Awards Luncheon, scheduled for Sunday, April 29, at 1:00 in the GCC.
2. She said that many requests had been received requesting research funds and that attempts had been made to fund as many as possible. She said there are additional sources still to be tapped for those who only received partial funding, and she hoped that faculty could explore those sources over the summer.
3. Dr. Krogh-Jespersen said that the summer will be busy both for the campus and the university. As we already witnessing, the appearance of the campus is being improved in anticipation of the University Board of Directors meeting on campus July 13-14. The meeting will be the first one that the newly-elected alumni members will be attending. In addition, we anticipate the signing of the Governor's budget as well as the trials of Sandusky and the two administrators who were relieved of duty over the case. Dr. Krogh-Jespersen said that the specifics of the case will be difficult to hear, but the emphasis has to be on what is already being done and what can be done to prevent the situation from happening again.
4. Enrollment across the commonwealth campuses is down by 900, which includes our campus, but everyone is working hard to close the gap with May 1 approaching. (May 1 is the universal date for students to pay their enrollment fee and commit to the University.)
5. Jonathan Tobin, the new career counselor, will be joining the campus on May 1 and the new Director of Student Affairs, Michelle Schutt, will be joining the campus on May 14. As to the DAA position, an offer has been made and accepted and the candidate is currently going through tenure review. An official announcement will be made when that process is concluded. The person is expected to attend the Strategic Planning Retreat May 31-June 1, and will formally join the campus on July 1.

6. The name Director of Academic Affairs will be changed to Chief Academic Officer, as it has been on many campuses, to better reflect the responsibilities involved with the position.

Interim Director of Academic Affairs

No report.

New Business

Beatriz Riviera-Barnes announced that Alan Peslak must step down from the Promotion and Tenure Committee as he is a discipline coordinator. This means that two people must be chosen for the Promotion and Tenure Committee. Durrell Johnson pointed out that a vote needed to be taken to allow Dr. Peslak to step down from his position. A motion was so made by Dave Byman. Tenured and tenure-track faculty in attendance voted to accept the motion.

Dr. Riviera-Barnes said that she will post a note on Angel with the names of eligible people to fill the two positions, and tenured and tenure-track faculty are to vote for two of their choice.

Committee Reports

Diversity

Kami Merrifield, chair, reported that the committee has set the second Wednesday of every month, except December and May, for diversity presentations. While topics for such presentations have not been finalized yet, she said the committee has many ideas and is open to suggestions. She asked faculty to encourage students to attend diversity presentations, even if a topic does not directly relate to their subject matter, as diversity is not just an HDFS issue, as some apparently believe but is important in all aspects of university life and is relevant to students' development as professionals. Sandy Feather, Associate Director of Enrollment Management, noted the increasing diversity of our student body and also said that multi-cultural competency is what the University as a whole is trying to develop in its students. She said diversity should be promoted both within and outside the classroom .

Dr. Merrifield noted that the committee has a calendar (thanks to Marilee Mulvey) where faculty can see what the Diversity Committee has planned. She suggested faculty consider putting some of the events/dates on their syllabus or find other ways to encourage attendance. She also noted the committee is always looking for new members, and when questioned about whether only faculty are eligible, she said the committee is open to staff as well as faculty. (Several staff members currently serve on the Diversity Committee.)

An upcoming event sponsored by the Diversity Committee and supported by Student Affairs is Holi, a religious spring festival celebrated by Hindus. Known as the Festival of colors, it is a joyous event where people throw colored powder at each other. If weather permits, everyone is invited to take part in the campus Festival of Colors scheduled on the veranda, Thursday, April 26. (Rain date is Friday, April 27.) Posters explaining the nature of Holi are posted throughout the campus, thanks to Michele Nicoteri.

University College Council Report

Dr. Dave Byman said that the Council has continued to work on two documents: SRTE administration and work loads. The work load document was sent to all faculty as an attachment. It has been formally approved by the Council and has been forwarded to the Dean (Madlyn Hanes, VPCC and Dean).

As to SRTEs, the continued concern is low participation rates and their impact on faculty evaluation. Since we are not going to be going back to paper administration, the Council said that all faculty should do what they can to improve their own response rates since apparently e-mails to students to fill out the evaluations is not achieving the desired results. Dr. Byman said that the Council has compiled a list of ideas, such as taking classes to a computer lab to do the evaluations—not practical on our campus—and he is willing to share these ideas with anyone who wants to get in touch with him. Durrell Johnson stressed the importance of the SRTEs in faculty evaluations and questioned how they would be now be used in that evaluation process since a low response rate would skewer results. Gail Keating asked whether the university didn't anticipate lower response rates when they initiated the online method. It appears this issue will continue to be a concern.

Additional Reports

1. Mary Beth Benedict, financial aid coordinator, reminded faculty of the process of selecting recipients of four Faculty Senate scholarships. Although only four will be awarded, she said she needs twelve nominees and she asked that faculty nominate worthy students. Scholarships are open to any current student who meets the following criteria: full-time student, sophomore, junior or senior, 3.25 GPA, active in campus activities. When asked, she said that no preference is given to upper class students and that, yes, financial need is also considered (though this is not something faculty need to concern themselves with).
2. Sandy Feather said she and Marilee Mulvey wanted to showcase a website prepared by University Park a year ago, which contains numerous modules and even a-v presentations, some ANGEL-based, some web-based, that will be used by the campus as part of its FYE (First Year Experience) initiative. The site will be presented to incoming

students during FTCAP starting May 8. It will be tied in to students' need to develop a co-curricular transcript, which Todd Adams presented at the March Faculty Senate meeting. Marilee projected the EDGE website and pointed out two particular modules: career planning and multi-cultural competency. Two other modules called SAFE and AWARE that deal with drug and alcohol awareness will be mandatory for all students to complete. Marilee said that faculty should check out the site as they may find modules that they might want to incorporate into their classes. When questioned, Marilee said that at this point there is no way within the EDGE site to record or track what students had done which modules.

Sandy Feather said the new career counselor and the new Director of Student Affairs will be involved in implementing the FYE experience. Sandy said she will be sending out the co-curricular passport materials that Todd Adams distributed at the March Faculty Senate meeting and asked that faculty promote the transcript by putting information about it on their syllabi. She said that the FYE/Co-Curricular Committee will continue to meet as the Passport requirement goes into effect.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 12:45 by Durrell Johnson, seconded by Alan Peslak.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Harper
Faculty Senate secretary

