

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Penn State Worthington Scranton
February 18, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 by Faculty Senate Chair, Beatriz Rivera-Barnes . A motion to accept the minutes of the January minutes was made by Mike Evans and seconded by Taoye Zhang.

Administrative Reports

Chancellor

1. Chancellor Mary-Beth Krogh-Jespersen announced that the commencement speaker will be Marla Scranton, Advisory Board Chair. Graduation this year is scheduled for Friday, May 3, at 6:00 P.M.
2. Dr. Krogh-Jespersen said that the annual Award Dinner is the Sunday before commencement and, as we know, faculty awards for teaching, research and service are made at that time. A description of the awards and their criteria can be found on the campus website. Dr. Krogh-Jespersen called for nominations, which can be made on the website or forwarded to her or Mary Ann Gable.
3. Dr. Krogh-Jespersen said grants for summer research are available from the Matthews fund and The Greater Scranton Penn State Chapter funds.
4. Gail Keating was selected to be one of the 50 Faces of Penn State. She had been nominated by one of her students for this prestigious award.
5. Dr. Krogh-Jespersen reported on the athletics facilities renovation, which will cost \$2 million. Athletic fields will be updated, a new baseball field will be added, a field house built, and parking space created. Dr. Madlyn Hayes, Vice-President of Commonwealth Campuses, has pledged \$145,000 from her office. Another \$145,000 has been promised from the Facilities Resource Committee at U Park. The new baseball field will be named after Matt McGloin. Dr. Krogh-Jespersen recently met with Matt's father and he and Matt have given permission for the campus to approach donors to solicit \$125,000.
6. \$26,000 has been obtained from the UCIF (University Committee on Instruction Facilities) for the renovation of Dawson 123.

Chief Academic Officer

1. Dr. Patrick recognized Dr. Parminter Parmar who was honored by her alma mater in India.
2. FAR interviews are currently taking place and most will be completed this month.
3. Three tenure-track positions are currently taking place: IST, BSB, and Physics. The three top candidates from the large pool of applicants are currently interviewing on campus. (A business candidate was on campus today.) Dr. Patrick thanked chairs of the committees: Mark Banaszek, Dave Burnis and Majid Chatsaz. He said the hope is that the positions will be filled for the start of the fall semester.
4. Dr. Patrick said he wanted to discuss an issue with us that he had presented to the Program Co-ordinators at their recent meeting, and that is: what should be done by a faculty member regarding his or her classes in case of inclement weather when the campus does not cancel classes or the campus is on compressed schedule and the faculty member is unable to get to campus because of road conditions. Dr. Patrick said he wants to create guidelines for such situations. Should the faculty simply cancel classes or should the classes still be held in some alternate form? A discussion ensued during which a number of faculty shared how they deal with the situation. Renee MacNair said she uses Angel, with chatrooms and discussion boards during the class's scheduled time. Renee Bishop said she will prepare a podcast the night before if she expects the roads to be compromised the next day. Dave Byman mentioned the use of Power Points or Prezi (?) He also pointed out the problem with compressed schedules when half the class is missing and Fred Aebli mentioned that students complain that they e-mail a faculty member early in the morning of a bad weather day to ascertain whether class will be held and they don't hear back right away and so proceed to campus only to find out that the class has been cancelled. Dr. Patrick said this is exactly the issue he is trying to address with a policy statement. Alternative means of delivering a class would seem to be the solution, though Fred Aebli mentioned that students might not have at home some of the newer technology such as Adobe Connect. If faculty were planning to use something like that they might need to include it on their syllabi. Dr. Patrick said the consensus of the faculty seems to be that if a faculty member cannot reach campus because of inclement weather he or she should not cancel class but rather hold it in an alternate manner. He said he would continue the conversation with the Program Co-ordinators at their next meeting in order to develop a statement regarding the issue.
5. A call for proposals for research, teaching and development grants will be issued in March with a due date in April. Decisions will be made over the summer for the 2013-2014 year.

University Senators' Report

In the absence of Marlene Soulsby and Durell Johnson, Fred Aebli reported for our campus senators on the recent University Faculty Senate meeting.

1. The Senate is undergoing a self-study to decide whether the structure of the Senate needs to be changed to meet its charged legislative objectives.
2. As was mentioned in a previous Faculty Senate meeting, the University is exploring options to replace ISIS (Student Information System). The change will affect not just students but staff and faculty as well.
3. As was also mentioned at a previous Faculty Senate meeting, the number of Senators for any campus is calculated by the total number of faculty. Since our total number is now 54, the campus will have three Senators rather than four for the 2013-2014 year. [For more information on any of these points, please see the links on an e-mail sent to all faculty by Durell Johnson on Monday, February 18.]

New Business

Beatriz Rivera-Barnes noted that the current Faculty Senate officers will be completing their term with the April meeting. Magid Chatsaz will move up to chair from chair elect. This means we need to elect a chair elect and a secretary by the end of April.

Learning Center

Eileen Giovagnoli demonstrated the new schedule system in the Learning Center. Through it students can schedule or cancel tutoring appointments as well as sign up for workshops. Students get an e-mail confirming their appointment and a reminder e-mail the night before. They can even sign up for waitlist for an appointment and if the time becomes available, they will get an e-mail letting them know. Eileen said the system is already in operation and has been well received by students.

IT Department

Ryan Moskalczak and Griff Lewis distributed a flyer and talked about the upcoming Media Lab Brown Bag, scheduled for Wednesday, February 27, and Thursday, February 28, at noon in D117b. Faculty who have been using the Media Lab facilities will explain how they incorporate it into their classes. Student work will also be demonstrated. This will be an excellent presentation to attend, especially in light of the discussion earlier in the meeting about delivering class sessions in alternate modalities in case one cannot attend a class because of the weather.

Athletics

Jeff Mallas reported on recent accomplishments by our campus athletes. In women's basketball, our team won the Northern division championship for the first time. Jess Segilia was named to the first team All-Conference and Player of the Year for the PSUAC. The men also won the division championship, for the first time in twelve years. In bowling the women placed second in the state at the PCAA state championships, and Candyce Mays placed first in singles and first overall. Candyce with her teammate Vicky Petinato placed second in doubles. On the men's side, Chris Pepitone placed fourth in singles and eighth overall.

Jeff said that the Program for Athletic Student Success (PASS) is currently working on a card describing the campus's athletics that can be use for recruiting purposes.

Curricular Affairs Committee

Dave Byman announced that the committee will meet Wednesday, February 27, to discuss the developing of a Spanish major.

At 12:45 Dave Byman called for the meeting to be adjourned. Kelley Wagers seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Harper

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Faculty Senate secretary