

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Penn State Worthington Scranton
March 22, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 12:07 P.M. by faculty senate chair, Beatriz Rivera-Barnes. A motion to accept the minutes of the February meeting was made by Durrell Johnson and seconded by Dale Holen. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Administrative Reports

Chancellor

Chancellor Dr. Mary-Beth Krogh-Jespersen said that the current week has been very busy with the Walsh Lecture series luncheon currently going on in the Sherbine Lounge at that very moment; the Faculty Staff campaign kick-off luncheon on Tuesday with guest appearances by Vanna White (Lynn Fazio) and Pat Sajak (John Drake); and the Advisory Board meeting on Wednesday, at which Dr. Krogh-Jespersen informed the Board on the role of the Board of Trustees who will meeting on campus July 12 and 13.

Dr. Krogh-Jespersen said it has been twenty years since the Board of Trustees has met here, and we want to showcase faculty, staff and facilities while they are here. In preparation for the visit, one and a half million dollars have been allocated for improvement of the physical environment of the campus. That improvement will start next week with the renovation of the sidewalks, which, unfortunately, will cause some inconvenience for us all.

Dr. Krogh-Jespersen said that she and Sandy Feather just received word from Madelyn Hanes, Vice-President of the Commonwealth campuses, that the campus will be receiving \$125,000 of the \$800,000 requested for scholarships in an effort to improve recruitment and retainment. Dr. Krogh-Jespersen said that Sandy had submitted four proposals and that the campus will fund the other three.

Dr. Krogh-Jespersen told faculty who had money left from previous received awards that they need to apply for an extension to use the remaining money. She also said that anyone applying for funding for the first time needs to do so by April 6.

Dr. Krogh-Jespersen asked people to please nominate for the faculty-staff awards: The Advisory Board Award for Teaching, the Gertrude Hawk Chocolates Service Award, the Sally Matthews Award for Scholarly Activity, and the K Bruce Sherbine Penn State Proud Award. She stressed these are important awards for the recipients and carry a cash award.

Interim DAA

No report.

University Senator Reports

Dale Holen reported that the Board of Trustees addressed the Faculty Senate. Of the five committees within the Board of Trustees, three are new: Governance and Long-Range Planning, Risk, Compliance, Legal and Audit; and Outreach, Development and Community Relations. There have been students, faculty and alumni on Board of Trustees committees but they are non-voting members.

In light of the diminishing funds from the state, the University is studying Cornell's funding structure as a possible model since Cornell is a private land-grant institution that does get some public funds.

The Senate approved a motion to honor Joe Paterno.

The Task Force of the Senate is looking to create a unified honor code, as many departments have individual ones

Pat Hinchey reported on the Curricular Affairs sub-committee. She said that in light of the University's concern for promoting critical thinking skills, a pilot program is taking place this spring with the administering of an exam to certain English 15 students at University Park. The exams are being scored by faculty. Because no funding is involved for faculty serving as evaluators, faculty outside University Park have been recruited. Dr. Hinchey and Renee Bishop will be traveling to University Park on April 2 and April 9 to take part in the grading.

Committee Reports

Undergraduate Research Committee

Nichola Edwards, chair, announced that this year's undergraduate research fair will be held Monday, April 16, from 6 to 8 P.M. in the Cafeteria Conference Room. She said that any student accomplishment can be displayed that is of interest to our school or community, and it could be a student, student/faculty or collaborative team project. This could involve independent studies, class projects, works-in-progress or creative pieces, such as poetry.

As special incentive to participate, this year as last cash prizes will be awarded for the best presentation in the following disciplines: Business/IST, Arts/Humanities, Natural Sciences,

HDFS/Social Sciences, Nursing and Engineering/Technology. Faculty members will serve as judges, and a call for judges will be sent out soon.

Dr. Edwards said that the Fair is open to both the Penn State and local community. An invitation to participate has been extended to the Wilkes-Barre campus but no response has been received at this time.

Diversity

Kami Merrifield, chair, reported that the committee has sponsored a number of activities this year, and the plan is to secure dates for the 2012-2013 academic year with specific events to be designated later. She issued a call for new members to the committee, stressing that the issues it addresses are not limited to HDFS faculty.

Suzanne Harper, committee member, announced that on Wednesday, April 4, at noon a program sponsored by Diversity and co-sponsored by Faith and Values will take place in the Sherbine Lounge. A rabbi and a minister will discuss the relationship between Easter and Passover. She asked that faculty encourage students to attend.

Other Reports

Library

Beatriz Rivera Barnes reported for Billy Walker and Tierney Lyons that the library still has money available for books and dvds.

The library will be celebrating National Library Week on April 11. Cake and ice cream will be served. Tierney ask that faculty submit two citations of recent research (?) for display.

Academic Advising

Caressa Gearhart spoke about FTCAP and called for advisors for the dates she had recently circulated in a memo. She explained that a typical FTCAP session runs from 8:30 to approximately 12:30 P.M. with advisors dealing with about four students each session. Advisors receive \$20 an hour. A training session is set for May 7 at a time to be announced. Caressa said it is important that she know by March 30 who can do which dates as the number of students assigned to each session depends on the number of available advisors.

FYE (First Year Engagement)

Todd Adams noted the changes that occurred to First Year Seminar three years ago. The Senate voted to retain it at University Park but gave campuses the option to keep FYS or replace it with FYE. Our campus chose to implement FYE. The goal for FYE remains the same as FYS: to help

students be successful. The general belief is that students are satisfied with academics but not so satisfied with co-curricular activities. As Dr. Adams pointed out, on our campus there are inherent difficulties because of our lack of dorms. With that in mind the group working on FYE for our campus decided to devise a co-curricular transcript for all students. This document will give students a semester-by-semester breakdown of activities that they should be accomplishing outside the classroom. These activities are all aimed at helping students to be successful in their pursuit of higher education. Faculty will be asked to attach a one-page description with their syllabi, which means that students will be receiving multiple copies. It is the hope that seeing the description numerous times will lead students to take the transcript more seriously. While students are not required to do all the items on the transcript, they will be strongly encouraged to do so. It is hoped that the transcript will give students a record of what they done, which, among other things, they might be able to use on a resume.

Dr. Adams mentioned that some of the goals of the former FYS curriculum are still being covered in certain classes. For instance, all students in English 4 and English 15 must complete a library project. Suzanne Harper mentioned that she still requires, as FYS did, students to attend at least one event on campus and to report on it in an end-of-semester project. She said this is an easy way for all faculty to encourage students to get involved in activities outside the classroom. Dr. Adams mentioned that in recent semesters some faculty, including him, Marlene Soulsby and Gail Keating, have taught courses in their disciplines in which they have incorporated success strategies, such as time management.

Sandy Feather said that Matt Nied will be talking to the new students about the transcript at both FTCAP and Orientation. Sandy also said that the campus will be using the EDGE website, which is housed in Student Affairs for resources and will be using ANGEL, PSU's course management system for tracking participation.

Associate Director of Enrollment Management

Sandy Feather asked that, in light of the new format for Open House, the campus wishes to highlight the accomplishments of faculty. In that regard, Sandy asked those who are attending the Open Houses to bring "props" of their awards and research. The point is to make potential students want to attend our campus.

Athletic Department

Jeff Mallas said that faculty will soon receive a list of students who will be participating in Women's softball and Men's baseball. He asked that faculty report to him any students who are not attending class and/or are not performing up to standards.

Jeff mentioned that the annual Greater Scranton Penn State Chapter Alumni dinner will be Thursday, May 10, at 6:30 P.M. at Genetti Manor in Dickson City. Guest speaker will be Penn State's new football coach, Bill O'Brien. He said that proceeds from the dinner fund three endowed student scholarships.

Health and Safety Services

Jill Thoman, campus nurse, said that several situations have occurred on campus recently related to student behavior. Penn State's "Code of Conduct" (a copy of which can be procured through Penn State's webpage) outlines appropriate student behavior, and faculty who feel a student is violating that code should report it to appropriate authorities, which vary according to the situation. A violation must be written up in order for sanctions to be imposed or counseling mandated. Behavior such as intimidation or threats in class is a matter for Judicial Affairs while any medical related incidents should be reported to Jill, Andy Yakubic (Security) and/or 911 for emergency services. Based on a few recent incidents on campus, she said that if a student were to pass out in class and the faculty member did not know her or security's number, that faculty member should dial 911. If a student were to fall asleep in class, faculty should make sure that the student is okay before leaving the room, especially if the class is the last one in that room for the day. If the student cannot be roused, and no one is on campus, 911 should be contacted.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 12:50 by Dale Holen, seconded by Durrell Johnson.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Harper

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Faculty Senate Secretary