

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Penn State Worthington Scranton

October 9th, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 P.M. by Faculty Senate Chair, Majid Chatsaz. A motion to approve the September 11th meeting minutes was made by Marilee Mulvey and seconded by Beatriz Rivera-Barnes.

Administrative Reports

Chancellor Report

- First, Dr. Mary Beth Krogh-Jespersen welcomed faculty and staff to the meeting. She verbalized that the strategic planning committee is working very diligently. As they send items out to you, the chancellor asks that you kindly respond to them. She has seen a copy of the preliminary draft and mission statement. The draft will be sent out to the campus for review and then if there are further comments we will take into consideration and prepare another draft. The plan is for a growth of two thousand students. In the year two thousand there were two thousand students on campus. In the freshman class two hundred of those students had a GPA 1.5 and the learning center did not exist. Therefore over the years, students with that GPA did not stay. Over the years, Penn State raised the GPA from 1.5 to 1.8 and we just did a study to see if we said 2.0, how many students would we have lost from the freshman class right now? Some of the improvements we have made to our campus include the following: HDFS-An observation room, Business-A whole building, IST- A dedicated Wing and Science- \$3 million dollar renovation for science labs. Overall if we enroll more students, we have a greater potential to get the kinds of resources we need to support those students.
- At the last faculty senate meeting, there was a question about general education modernization. At the academic leadership council on Monday, university faculty senate was at the meeting and informed us of the nine areas that university faculty senate is undertaking for this year. One area is general education modernization. The clarification was made that was part of the charge in doing a makeover of general education, it has to be possible to teach or utilize general education online and through the world campus. It is distinct from scholarship engagement as a process. Ms. Carlson from the Deans office is coming on October 17th. We are trying to arrange an itinerary. She does data and assessment in the Vice Provost office. She can tell us about student profiles, student enrollment and demographics in our region. There are a lot of questions to Michael Doris in terms of strategic planning in terms of values, ethics and compliance. In terms of compliance everyone has to comply with AD39 etc. But how are we measuring our ethics and determining what Penn state values should be and how to measure

them. A survey will be sent out and I encourage you as a campus to participate because there may be items that will be put into action for the strategic plan.

- Question: Majid asked if we had a GPA of 2.0 how many less students?
- The Chancellor: We would have 50 less students in the freshman class. But if we had too less students, it would send a message of the quality of the campus. We do have an obligation to provisional students.
- Fred Aebli met with area high school honors biology, physics and math teachers who are forming a technology alliance in the region. They received a grant and are trying to make kids excited about the sciences. In conversation with the curriculum director at the Scranton School District, we began to discuss observations about the students on campus in regards to their math skills and how it is declining. Mr. Aebli was then invited to Scranton high to speak to math teachers, talking about curriculum at Scranton High and the teachers were very welcoming of the discussion. They are at a curriculum junction. It is great that we are progressing to a 2.0 GPA and we are at that junction to work with secondary education in the region on what we are seeing and how we can help students. It will be wise for us to understand the common core at the secondary level to adapt our level. The Chancellor also responded that strategic planning will span over five years. Beatriz asked how many students more would we have with a 1.5 GPA? The Chancellor responded that there may be hundreds more but we need to keep a message in the community of quality at our campus.

Chief Academic Officer

- No Report

Assistant Chief Academic Officer

- Mike Evans had handouts for faculty regarding the Adjunct Faculty Peer Review Process. This process has been going on for years. He is looking to change the process, policy and make the form more stream line that is available online and a hard copy. The form and evaluation were distributed. Every adjunct will need to be evaluated once every three years or more often if necessary. The evaluation must be done by a Penn State full time Worthington Faculty member. The adjunct faculty has to provide the evaluator with copy of their syllabus and their lecture so that you can review ahead to ensure they are teaching what they stated they would be. The evaluation cannot be done on a test day. About 60% of adjuncts on campus have been evaluated and there are only about two to three in each department left to be evaluated. He will be working with program coordinators to ensure all the evaluations are done. Then a cycle of fall spring will begin. He would also like full time faculty members here to evaluate. The two attachments will be emailed out. The tracking will be down through academic affairs office.

Communication of The University Officers

- Fred Aebli- The only report about an email in regards to the wellness initiatives and that changes are occurring. Gene will be the individual for specific questions about health coverage or

benefits. If you have fifteen minutes to view the link in the special senate minute to see how the exchange occurred. Academic affairs meetings were still highly active through the health care initiatives meetings.

Standing Committee Reports

- Faculty Affairs Committee-No Report
- Curricular Affairs Committee-No report
- Student Affairs-No Report
- Special Committees: Advising, Diversity, Honors or International Programs
- Mr. Paul Perrone reported that the scholarship committee had their reception on October 3rd which was highly successful. The numbers were as follows: 166 scholarships were distributed and the dollar amount was \$285, 738 dollars this year.
- Jim Hart reported for the diversity committee that Coming out Day is on October 10th . The diversity committee is more than HDFs and LGBTA. We welcome all faculty and trying to have events every day,
- Undergraduate Research Committee- No Report

New Business

- David Byman spoke about signage on the laboratory doors and the lack of appropriate signs in English and Brail on the doors. Mr. Gene Grogan responded that when the rooms were renovated the signs were not included. We are looking to make signs uniform throughout the entire building. As stated in the email we are beginning on the second floor and we are working with two different companies for bids for the signage. Also Mr. Grogan stated that there is a benefits meeting on Tuesday October 15th in the Sherbine Lounge. If you do not want to make changes there are still areas that you will need to check off to continue current benefits.

No announcements

- A motion to adjourn was made at 12:36 pm by Beatriz Rivera-Barnes and seconded by Michael Evans

Respectfully submitted,

Justina M. Ferguson MSN., RN

Faculty Senate Secretary