

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Penn State Worthington Scranton

September 11th, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 P.M. by Faculty Senate Chair, Majid Chatsaz. A motion to approve the April 23rd meeting minutes was made by Dave Byman and seconded by Janet Melnick.

Administrative Reports

Chancellor

First, Dr. Mary Beth Krogh-Jespersen welcomed faculty back and verbalized an overview of the items that are impacting Penn State and the campus community. The Chancellor discussed what Penn State and all of us are reacting to, are the economy and what is going on around us. She discussed the current Presidential Search that is being conducted. If you go to the presidential search page, it was last updated today September 11th and that a new president will be announced by the end of the fall semester. There are two committees in operation: the Internal Search and Screen committee and the Trustees committee. The search and screen committee is done with their work and they have advanced a short list to the board of trustees. We can anticipate to see candidates come from various places. If you have the opportunity to see these candidates, please do so. There is a presidential transition team that is in the process of dealing with preparing the new president. The commission core councils, specifically the academic core council are diligently active councils. Please review the core councils on the strategic planning website to view what we as a campus are going to work on and what the new president is going to see regarding campuses. Secondly, is the budget task force and one of the elements of task force was the campus system. The Worthington Scranton Campus has been looked at as a campus to add more programs and grow to two thousand. As a campus we will be dealing with strategic planning. University Park and the Vice-President's Area of Development has worked closely with a consultant to review the entire area. Strategic Planning is going on across nineteen campuses in every college and every vice presidential area. The Board of Trustees is allowing for announcements to be made. As an example having salary increases shift from July 1st to July 1st to Oct 1st. The board had made the decision now that the shift will be Oct 1st to Oct 1st. In regards to the Freeh Report, there are over one hundred eighteen recommendations and each recommendation is being worked on. In those recommendations are the additions of compliance officers to assure that compliance is maintained on each campus. The NCAA sanctions were also discussed and the impact at campuses at large. In the past external legal counsel was maintained, but now there are at least ten lawyers.

Additionally for strategic planning, there is a website on the campus that you can view. The Diversity Committee is already charged and active. Dr. Krogh-Jespersen charged the campus to become active in strategic planning. She then asked if any faculty had any questions. Questions asked included:

Dr. Durrell Johnson asked that with the target enrollment of 2000, is a space plan included as part of the strategic plan. Dr. Krogh-Jespersen did affirm that there would be enough parking for a 2000 student enrollment. The next question by Durrell included assuming that 20-25% are online courses, there's a chance that we are going to roll out general education in the next couple years with an engaged scholarship component. This requirement will require more face to face time and cannot be completed through online offering.

Chief Academic Officer

Dr. Patrick first discussed enrollment growth and also the expansion of our baccalaureate programs. With a two thousand plus enrollment and up to 15 baccalaureate programs are options we have been able to account. Examples include the accounting option in business and the nursing program moving from an associate level to bachelor level in the fall of next year. Expansion typically means you have the faculty to do that. We were promised and believe that we will get a position for the psychology program. We will need to grow enrollment, then get resources. In terms of budget, the recycling part we are doing in our budget every year, what this means to get a salary increase is giving up a tenured track faculty position. The salary increase will be coming from recycling out things we absolutely don't want to recycle out.

The learning initiative was discussed and through a conducted survey by Dr. Patrick, a 45% of our students had at least one developmental or basic skills need. In terms of retention, students who have one or two developmental needs, retention is significantly lower. Also we will be starting a Bridge Program Summer 2014. Also encouragement was given for faculty & staff to attend the Student Learning Outcome Workshops presented by Dr. Patricia Hincey & Griff Lewis as student outcomes will be discussed during the upcoming FAR evaluations. Lastly, Dr. Patrick encouraged faculty to get the undergraduate students in some type of a research project as it is a tremendous initiative to retain them.

The Officer's Report

Dr. Patricia Hincey

First, Dr. Patricia Hincey introduced all three individuals who have been active in the wellness initiative and University Faculty Senate. Dr. Durrell Johnson & Mr. Fred Aebli were also asked to speak to faculty. The faculty rights and responsibilities committee report was included in the last agenda which is online. The report was looked at again this year and the provost did implement all of the recommended remedies by the committee. Therefore you have a committee working for you to be sure that there is procedural fairness and the support of administrators. Also posted online is the athletics report and we are proud of our graduation rates for athletes. There is an ethics survey coming and encouraged to take it seriously. The bottom line and hot topic includes the following. The chair of the University Faculty Senate was presented with a petition. According to the constitution of the university faculty senate, it was put forward by 5 senators, calling for a special meeting. What the constitution requires is that it is forwarded, sponsored by 5 senators and there has to be at least fifty senators signing. It was presented with 100 signatures. There were four provisions made and will be posted on the University's Faculty Senate page. They include for the president to issue a moratorium on the wellness program, to delay it for at least 1 year and in that year, the second part of the resolution is a request that policy experts

within the senate and the university be requested to work with responsible parties in the university's administration to craft a policy that many people might feel to be more effective. The rollout may be very quick but increased transparency was promised for future decisions.

Dr. Durrell Johnson

Dr. Johnson discussed that one issue that did come out at the University Faculty Senate was that employees are concerned about how the data is being collected. The second issue that came up was the storage of the information collected. From a data perspective, could data be used for projective, predicted types of third party advertising? A disclaimer exists such as: We won't sell it to a 3rd party unless your employer agrees we can sell it to a 3rd party. We received the impression that the initiative will not go away.

Mr. Fred Aebli

Mr. Aebli expressed that from a technical standpoint, many faculty were not worried about the information being hacked but their concern was where is the data going to go? We do have Highmark's security component presentation if any faculty would like to view it. Highmark expressed that they can help us get healthier. Another point was expressed very clear at the meeting which was that of healthcare costs are escalating rapidly and if we don't get on the bandwagon with this now, this is going to have a very severe impact on us financially very soon. Lastly, two elements that may not sit well are the WebMD component, which is a 3rd party vendor and the other element is the punitive aspect of it.

Dr. Alan Peslak

As the university is divided from scandal, what is the point of this to divide even more. If you fill out the survey, they already have all that information. Once we accept healthcare paid for by the university, we expose our information to a third party. Opinion shared that this will make the university look worse in the press and that we should limit further division among ourselves.

Dr. Patricia Hinchey

The Faculty Senate believes shared governance and transparency is necessary in higher education.

Curricular Affairs

Dr. Durrell Johnson stated that the General Education Taskforce is charged. There will be a roll out of how we do general education in the fall of 2015. They are starting to create a taskforce for a constructed approach of general education for major tie in's. Lower level courses are also general education and how we offer courses will be looked at. A second component is to engage scholarship as an integral approach of general education. This approach will include service learning, independent learning and how it will become a requirement of every student and faculty. What are academic opportunities within a defined course and that when students are engaged they are successful. They want to make legislative changes within two years. A communications subcommittee will be created to ensure you can communicate disagreements back to the working group.

Standing Committee Reports

Faculty Affairs Committee

Dr. Hinchey reported that she is acting as chair but there is a need for a chair to be elected. The issue of workload, policies and procedures will be taken up by the committee this year. A chair must be elected.

Student Affairs Committee

Majid stated that Dr. Russell Casey emailed everyone a list of committees as they were formed and their members. Based on the by-laws, chairs of standing committees should be elected by the committee members. He will ask different committees to convene and elect a chair.

Diversity Committee

Dr. Janet Melnick stated that the diversity committee is active and for faculty to be cognizant of all the diversity activities throughout the year. They are always looking for new members. The first Planning meeting is scheduled for Friday September 13th, 2013

Sue Harper

Stated that the Diversity Committee is sponsoring an Interdependence Day on Ethnic Diversity in NEPA and to encourage students to attend on September 12th, 2013.

Honors Committee

Dr. Holen speaking on behalf of Meg Hatch about the honors options and that if any faculty are interested in offering a one credit honors seminar to contact Dr. Adams or Dr. Hatch. Guidelines asked to be emailed out to faculty.

International Programs

John Dolis not in attendance. No report from any committee members.

Scholarship Committee

Mr. Paul Perrone stated that the committee finished deliberations for this academic year. The reception is October 3rd at St. Mary's Center. He extended appreciation for their assistance as they developed a list of recipients.

Undergraduate Research

Dr. Nicola Edwards not in attendance. The Chancellor stated that they are going forward with two proposals: \$35,000, \$7,000 per year in the hopes of supporting the undergraduate research fair and that the proposal is very strong to go to a donor.

New Business

Tierney Lyons gave a reminder of the library services such as on-demand workshops for faculty or the ability for library faculty to come into your classrooms to teach about searching and evaluation of research. Also course reserve has been popular to make reading available to students. A flyer was distributed.

Additional Announcements

Caressa Gearhart

The new FAD schedule and new advising initiatives were distributed and emailed. New advising initiatives were discussed in the first FAD sessions. Additionally, the next session will be in October and Dr. Melnick will be leading the discussion about mentorship. If you have topics please let Janet or Caressa know.

Diane Slater

Diane stated that the University wants us to have the book request information in by September first. She has set the due date to September 18th. The new program is online & information on the back table to submit book requests. The new system is more user friendly about past course information, information to see what other faculty are using at other campuses.

A motion to adjourn was made at 12:58 by _____, seconded by _____.

Respectfully Submitted

Justina M. Ferguson

Faculty Senate Secretary