

**Faculty Senate Minutes, Penn State Worthington Scranton
April 21, 2011
Sherbine Lounge**

Meeting called to order at 12:05 pm by Dr. Gail Keating, Faculty Senate Chair

Approval of Minutes

Motion made and seconded to accept March 31, 2011 meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Administrative Reports

Chancellor's Report – Dr. Mary-Beth Krogh-Jespersen

Chancellor Dr. Krogh-Jespersen stated that planning for budget changes continues on the campus and she is working in every way possible to mitigate difficulties that could arise from decreased state funding for Penn State University.

She noted that this week President Graham Spanier publically stated that he does not want to close campuses, but that option remains “on the table.”

Dr. Krogh-Jespersen stated that although the outcome Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett's plan to cut Penn State's funding is not yet determined the campus is working to develop two scenarios based on 2% and 10% reductions. The reductions may impact salaries, extra compensation, and department allocation.

Dr. Krogh-Jespersen explained that the process in place for determining the scenarios involves: (1) a cost analysis and (2) a step-by-step workload analysis of each program. As a result of these analyses, some “red flags” suggest changes that should be made regardless of Governor Corbett's final budget. In particular, it has become clear that the Nursing Department's workload has increased. The campus should expect some changes to fall 2011 schedules based on this finding.

Future steps in this process will include Program Coordinators' detailed plans for 2% and 10% budget reductions in individual academic programs, as well as plans for implementing changes, including determining priorities and action plans, in collaboration with information provided by the campus Financial Officer and Director of Academic Affairs.

Dr. Krogh-Jespersen emphasized that we are still awaiting news from Governor Corbett, but working in advance of a final decision in order to prepare for upcoming changes.

Mr. Fred Aelbi asked Dr. Krogh-Jespersen to comment on the “bigger picture” in terms of whether she sees Penn State University developing a strategy to move away from state funding.

Dr. Krogh-Jespersen stated that it is important to consider the history of Penn State as a public institution and a land grant university. However, in 11 years of work for Penn State University she frequently has experienced changes in state funding and similar budget concerns. She stated that it is important to start talking about and planning for the University's future in the long term.

Dr. Durell Johnson asked Dr. Krogh-Jespersen to clarify what salary changes the campus might expect and whether these changes would be in addition to the current salary freeze.

Dr. Krogh-Jespersen stated that she does not see salary reductions, but rather possible reductions in staff.

Interim DAA Report – Dr. Molly Wertheimer

Dr. Wertheimer reported her attendance at the Arts and Humanities meeting, including meeting a representative from the Rock Ethics Institute. As a result of the discussion, Dr. Wertheimer may be working with Dr. Todd Adams on a proposal concerning “ethics in a time of downsizing.” The project would investigate efforts to ensure objective, data-based decisions in response to budget changes. Dr. Wertheimer also reported Provost Erikson’s description of the changes inspired by the Pennsylvania state budget debate as a “watershed” event, a “great reset,” and “the new normal.”

Dr. Wertheimer reminded faculty that attendance is expected at the campus commencement on Friday May 13, 2011. Faculty members unable to attend should notify Dr. Durell Johnson. Dr. Wertheimer also reminded faculty to consider proper attire for the ceremony.

As this was the final Faculty Senate meeting of the academic year, Dr. Wertheimer expressed how much she enjoyed working at Penn State Worthington Scranton. She noted the wealth of actual and potential skill on the campus and stated that it was an “honor to serve” as Interim DAA.

Dr. Gail Keating stated that she spoke for the faculty in returning the sentiment.

Faculty Senate Report

Dr. Pat Hinchey stated that the University Faculty Senate has not met.

Dr. Hinchey then reminded faculty of change in the process for assigning a deferred grade (DF) now in effect. Students granted a deferred grade in a course have 10 calendar weeks from the end of the semester in order to complete outstanding work. If the work has not been completed and the instructor has not updated the grade after 10 weeks, the students’ grade will automatically change to a failing grade (F).

Dr. Alan Peslak asked whether the opportunity to change a student’s grade once it has automatically turned to F remains.

Dr. Hinchey affirmed that instructors still have this opportunity to change the grade.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports. Dr. Keating reminded all Faculty Senate Committee chairs to submit activity summaries to her by Friday, April 22, or Monday, April 25, in advance of the Campus Advisory Board Meeting on May 5, 2011.

New Business

Nominations for University College Faculty Council (UCFC) Councilor and Councilor-Elect

Dr. Keating solicited nominations for UCFC Councilor and Councilor-Elect. Dr. Dave Byman and Dr. Alan Peslak were nominated for these positions. Dr. Keating stated that she would organize an election early next week.

Nominations for Promotion and Tenure Committee

Dr. Keating solicited nominations for a one-year term on the P & T Committee to replace Dr. Parminder Parmar, who will be on sabbatical for the 2011-2012 academic year. Eligible faculty include: Dr. Dolis, Head Librarian Fennewald, Dr. Hatch, Dr. Hinchey, Dr. Michalisin, Dr. Pham, Dr. Rivera-Barnes, and Dr. Soulsby. Dr. Keating stated that she would develop a ballot listing all eligible faculty and organize an online election for the position early next week.

Advising Focus Group and Advising Week

Dr. Russell Casey stated that both advising programs were successful and thanked Dr. Janet Melnick for her extensive work with the advising focus groups. Dr. Melnick reported that organizers originally planned to conduct three advising focus groups, but limited the study to one group due to poor response. She stated that a report is forthcoming and more focus groups will be assembled in the fall 2011 semester.

Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Next Meeting

This concludes the Faculty Senate meetings for the 2010-2011 academic year. A schedule for further meetings will be forthcoming.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelley Wagers (covering for Éva Tettenborn, Faculty Senate Secretary)