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College of Arts & Sciences Council Meeting : 2010 : 11 : 04

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Faculty Council Meeting – Nov. 4, 2010, 11-12:30

MINUTES

Present

Faculty Council Members: Susan Allen, Chair; Ella Schmidt, Mark Durand; Armando Hoare; Joseph Dorsey, Kathy Arthur; Barnali Dixon

Guests: Mark Walters, Frank Biafora

Approval of Oct. Minutes

- Joseph Dorsey moved, and Mark Durand second

Report from USFSP Faculty Senate; Discussion of Streamlining Governance Structure – Mark Walters

- Mark Walters shared that this proposal originated from the fact that the senate is overwhelmed with responsibilities. Also, given the size of this campus and the faculty, we have a heavy share of committee responsibilities.
- Discussed that Enrollment Management and Technology committees in particular seem to be related to faculty responsibilities and thus should have faculty input. Barnali Dixon is on the Enrollment Management committee, which met recently and has offered alternatives to this proposed action.
- The faculty council expressed their concern as to what structure will serve as a foundation for committees if not connected to the Faculty Senate and how faculty would be able to have input without the current committee structure.
- Mark Walters will take these concerns back to Rick Smith and the Senate.

Proposal from System Faculty Senate regarding Policy and Procedures for Changes in Academic Units

- Faculty Council members do not think that those from other parts of the USF system should have input into making changes in our structure. They believe it is fine if other parts of the system want information about changes being made here. However, there was concern that needing the approval from other parts of the system in order to make changes would seriously interfere with our autonomy.
- Susan Allen mentioned that she believed this motion was actually an effort to protect faculty given actions at other universities in the state to terminate tenured faculty by making changes in academic units.
- Mark Durand motioned and Barnali Dixon seconded that a vote be taken to register our disapproval of this proposal. The vote was unanimous. Susan Allen will relay this information to Malcolm Butler for the System-wide Senate.

Applications to Faculty Council for overflow travel monies

- Susan Allen gave a deadline to department chairs to relay to faculty with an application process.
- Did receive requests from 9 faculty members in two departments that goes much beyond the \$3,000 available to the Council.
- An ad hoc committee was formed to review applications: Susan Allen, Kathy Arthur, and Martine Fernandes. The Council agreed that they would have the authority to make decisions about how to allocate the money.

Discussion with Frank Biafora

- Frank Biafora shared information about demands on the CAS budget and past and future budget cuts.
- Margaret Sullivan asked faculty at the Fall Faculty Meeting to discuss our college-wide vision. Faculty council members discussed that we have been involved in visioning processes in the past and don't feel that administration has heard us. For example, we have continued to emphasize the importance of USFSP as an institution that supports faculty research. However, recent changes in this time of budget cuts have not seemed to support this vision. Another strength that some see as dwindling is interdisciplinary partnerships/programs. With the current department structure there are concerns that there is competition for limited resources and it has been difficult to develop a college-wide vision.
- Faculty Council members voiced concerns about the process of deciding on new programs. Not all faculty members feel that they have had a say in this process. They also voiced the belief that the priority right now should be strengthening existing programs rather than developing new ones. Examples were discussed, such as Journalism and ESP&G where new programs are being developed and Art where the recent sentiments are not to develop a new program. There was also discussion about the Math QEP and whether there has been sufficient faculty input as that is being developed. The QEP is one of the priority areas this year for new hires.
- Frank Biafora will put the issue of College Visioning on the agenda for the next Chairs' Meeting, which Susan Allen will attend. This will be an agenda item for the next Faculty Council meeting. Should we schedule meetings for next semester on this topic and how will they be structured?

Old Business – Student Conduct Workshop, Nov. 15, 2-4pm

- Susan Allen met with the Chairs and scheduled the workshop at a time that was convenient for them. Unfortunately only two Faculty Council members (Susan Allen & Joseph Dorsey) will be available to attend.

- Mark Durand suggested that the session be recorded and made available to those unable to come. Susan Allen will discuss that with Kay-lynn Taylor.

Next meeting in this room Thurs, Dec. 2 – 11 to 12:30