Faculty Council Meeting - Feb. 11, 2011; 1:00-2:30 pm

Present: Susan Allen, Kathy Arthur, Joseph Dorsey, Ella Schmidt, Barnali Dixon, Martine Fernandes, Mark Durand

Approval of Jan. Minutes - Approved by Mark seconded by Ella

Discussion of Chair position being open for next year.

Martine Fernandes has become Coordinator for the Language program and decided she cannot be Chair next year. Will continue as Vice Chair at this point.

Discussion of possible candidates from the current council. Ella Schmidt will consider the position, pending decisions on other possible commitments she has for next year

If no one is able to serve who is on the Council currently, the new Council will need to select a Chair, though it is better for continuity if a current member can serve.

Winter faculty meeting:

Feedback from those who attended - People found it very helpful; increased awareness and support across departments

Some results of the brainstorming by departments to specific questions:
Themes across depts. included – Civic engagement; interdisciplinary collaboration in research and teaching/ combine resources; Importance of support for research, including statistics and research skills for students; the need for new hires; technology, such as related to online courses; study abroad/ international programs

Other suggestions included
Establishing a theme for the year that would be employed in courses among depts..
Episodic college-level meetings to discuss big picture issues (e.g., vision for abilities of graduating seniors)

Next Step(s)
Expectation was another faculty meeting that encourages dialogue between faculty in all departments on different themes, such as civic engagement, research, and the overlapping topic of interdisciplinary collaboration

Decided that before a follow-up meeting, there needs to be discussion with Frank (& other administrators?) about support from the university/administration for such endeavors as civic engagement and interdisciplinary collaboration; Though these are endeavors faculty seem to value, the current T&P process does not generally support the time and effort for these activities. 

Susan Allen and Martine Fernandes will discuss this issue with Frank at their monthly meeting and report back to the faculty council next month.

QEP Concerns – Brought to the attention of the Council by Barnali Dixon
Concern at the lack of faculty involvement particularly early on in the process;
Specifically the two full-time math faculty were not included & now have concerns
about the text books that they are being told to use.
* Barnalli Dixon agree to submit these concerns in writing*

Student Center funding concerns – Chairs requested that this be discussed at FC meeting

Labor practices mentioned in the paper that were tied to funding; Some complexities of this
situation not covered in St. Pete Times; FC members do not see anything that can be done at
this time. However, being proactive, we want to be sure that there is faculty representation on
planning committees for future campus improvements.

New Business

Safety concerns – Brought to FC attention by Kathy & John Arthur who attended the recent
“Shooter on Campus” presentation
- inadequate staffing if emergencies were to happen during certain times
- classrooms are not safe; doors are not safely place and are not fitted with auto locks or
any locks at all
- There needs to be a way to quickly call directly to police
  * Kathy and John will submit their ideas to improve security in writing*
  * Susan Allen will ask the chairs to discuss safety issues at their departmental meetings*
  * and bring us their suggestions.*

The current plan is for LLW and Graphic Design to move to the Dali Museum

FC members see the Webmaster as a crucial position to fill soon with someone who has
appropriate training and experience. Concerns shared that faculty and students not be
relied on to provide these services.

Next meeting will be on March 11, 2011; Room to be determined as the Davis 100 conference room is
not available.