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USFSP Faculty Council Meeting : 2005 : 09 : 16 : Minutes

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ST. PETERSBURG

Faculty Council Meeting

Friday, September 16, 2005 8:10AM

Library Conference Room – 3rd floor

Present: Ambe Njoh, Jim Fellows, Deb Henry, Jamie McHale, Deanna Michael, Jim Spence,
Kim Stoddard
Absent: David Naar
Guests: Mark Durand, RVC Academic Affairs
John Gum, Chair Undergraduate Council

Announcements

The Council wishes to thank Jamie McHale for his service to USF and FC for the past year and a half. Jamie brought to the group a very positive energy through his thoughtful ideas and contributions.

Dr. Durand announced a SACS forum on Friday, September 23rd at 3:30 in FACT 118S. Mark also shared that Academic Affairs is looking into the feasibility of paying the cost for faculty regalia for those who participate in Commencement.

New Business

Minutes from the August 17th meeting were approved.

FC Vice Chair

Dr. Jim Fellows was unanimously elected vice chair of FC for the 2005-2006 academic year.

Undergraduate Council

Chair John Gum distributed the latest draft of the UC Policies and Procedures and reviewed all revisions with the FC. The members discussed the importance of each phase of the review process outlined. Jim Fellows moved to accept the document; Jim Spence seconded. All were in favor.

John also asked Council to confirm the membership on the UC. A student representative is still needed.

Future meetings

The Council confirmed the meeting dates (see below) for the fall semester. The members decided to meet in the library conference room as it is convenient to everyone.

FC Academic Conduct and Awards Committee

A suggestion was made to that in the future this committee consists of tenured or tenured-tracked faculty and/or past USFSP research, teaching and service award winners.

Fitness Center Fees

The Council debated the communication breakdown that occurred this summer with regard to the implementation of a faculty and staff fee for access to the fitness center, pool and other facilities and the seriousness of the concerns of the faculty that resulted. FC members and Dr. Durand discussed some ways of handling and /or responding to requests for input or information in order to avoid a repeat of this situation. While the new fee, approved by the USF SP Board, can not be changed, Karen White has announced plans to use concession money to pay part of the costs of access. The new fee will apply only to fitness center use. Use of the USFSP pool and some other facilities will remain free to faculty and staff.

Faculty Council name change

It was suggested that the Faculty Council consider changing its name to Faculty Senate. As the principal academic advisory body to the Regional Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs of

the USF SP, the name Senate would be a more appropriate description of the position and duties of the Council on campus and within the USF system.

A motion calling for a vote was tabled in favor of further discussion with constituents. While the current FC supports the change, the members will request feedback from their college and library colleagues and report back to the Council by September 30th meeting.

Faculty Excellence Program / Faculty Collective Bargaining Update

This issue was submitted by Bill Heller via email.

To summarize: the "University Board of Trustees negotiating team proposed a \$1.7 million Faculty Excellence Program to reward scholarly achievement in teaching, research and creative activity, in addition to the annual raise and other increases, including promotion increments. Potential recipients would be determined by a seven-person, university-wide committee consisting of four faculty members selected in a Faculty Senate-run election and three appointed academic administrators. The committee would recommend award recipients to the chief academic officers of the USF system campuses. Faculty members would be nominated for the awards through processes determined by each college. Each college would submit the names of up to 20 percent of its faculty to the university-wide committee. Nominees would then present portfolios demonstrating their excellence in scholarly achievement to the university-wide committee, which would also be responsible for specific definitions of "scholarly achievement. This proposal is currently under negotiation with the United Faculty of Florida. USF plans to implement the program as soon as the university and the UFF agree on its terms."

Bill suggested that the process of nomination and selection should be "conducted by each campus for each campus." After some discussion, Faculty Council decided to submit a statement supporting this suggestion with copies to Karen White, Judy Genshaft and the BOT. Deb will prepare a short statement and distribute to the Council members for revision.

Code of Ethics

Mark Durand distributed a suggested Code of Ethics and asked for faculty review and input. This written statement would serve as a guideline if and/or when there is an event or situation where professional behavior is questioned. A code of ethics would apply to Deans as well as general faculty. A general code of ethics may be modified to make guidelines more application to the charge of any specific group or committee. The Council briefly discussed the role of the Tenure and Promotion committee. FC members agreed to take the document to their respective College Councils and report any comments and discussion at the next meeting.

Committee of Full Professors

Applications for the rank of full professor are currently reviewed by a committee of full professors from the College of the applicant. Jim Fellows expressed concern over the fact that some of the colleges may only have one or two full professors available to serve on this kind of reviewing committee. He defined the problems associated with such small committees. Jim further suggested that we investigate the possibility of creating a campus-wide committee of full professors who would assume this charge rather than separate committees in each college. Mark offered to follow up by verifying university guidelines and any legal issues that might be involved and report back to the FC.

Academic Learning Compacts (ALC)

Although not on the agenda, as a last item of business, Mark distributed a packet of Academic Learning Compacts and sought approval. He explained that these compacts were prepared from existing program documentation that addressed the three areas of student learning outcomes outlined in the Board of Governors Policy Guideline #PG 05.02.15. Those three areas are: content/ discipline knowledge and skills, communication skills, and critical thinking skills. A fourth criterion, civic engagement, is also included on each of the ALCs distributed to FC members. Mark stated that these compacts were sent back to the College Councils for approval. Kim Stoddard initiated a discussion about the process by which these were produced.

Since the meeting ran over well over its allotted time, the Council decided to vote on the product rather than the process, as there seems to be a few issues to consider. Jim Spence made a motion to

accept the product that was distributed; Jim Fellows seconded. The remaining members of Council voted to accept. Member Jamie McHale (CAS) had a meeting conflict and was not present during the introduction of this item.

Old Business & College Reports

Due to the length of the agenda, the Council was unable to address some older business and college reports.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Next meeting

September 30, 2005
Library Conference room (3rd floor)
8:10 AM

Future meetings:

October 14
October 28
November 18
December 9

Prepared by Deb Henry