

## **FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**September 16, 2013**

**Members present:** Jim Allen, Seyed Allameh, Michael Baranowski, Diana Belland, Perry Bratcher, Kim Clayton-Code, Steve Crites, Irene Encarnacion, Nancy Firak, Richard Fox, Sandra Grinnell, Steven Gores, Lisa Holden, Doug Hume, Debra Kasel, Gabe Sanders (for Mary Kirk), Kajsa Larson, Ausbra McFarland, Joe Mester, John Metz, Karen Mutsch, Margaret Myers, Catherine Neal, Louise Niemer, Jeanne Pettit, Will Peveler, KC Russell, Sandra Spataro, Laura Sullivan, Jim Thomas, Steve Weiss, Jeffrey Williams

**Members absent:** Carol Bredemeyer, Gary Clayton, Roxanne Kent-Drury, Jacqueline Emerine, Barbara Houghton, Gail Mackin, Tamara O'Callaghan, Ron Shaw, Xiaoni Zhang

**Guests:** Geoffrey Mearns, Gail Wells, Ken Rhee, Mary Lepper, Stephen Johnson, David Trump, Vicki Natall, Sue Moore, Zach Hart, Kerri Beach, Alar Lipping, Grace Hiles

The meeting was called to order by Senate President Steve Weiss at 3:00 pm with a quorum present. The minutes of the August 26, 2013 meeting were approved with the following amendment: "A discussion was had between members of Faculty Senate and Sara Sidebottom, Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel, in which concern was raised about the meaning of new language on the 2013-2014 annual appointment form." A moment of silence was observed for the recent passing of three former faculty members Al Pinelo, Robert Collier, and Barbara Thiel. Several senators commented on these individuals' positive impacts on students and the university.

### **Guest Reports:**

- **University President (Geoffrey Mearns):**
  - University Strategic Plan update:
    - Appointment of committee in Jan. 2013
    - 7 open forums in the spring for faculty/staff, 3 for students
    - Online survey with a response rate of >50% for faculty/staff
    - Online survey responses by 2,000 students with the largest percentage from undergraduate seniors
    - 7 workgroups formed with 115 members
    - April conference for strategic plan stakeholders
    - 1<sup>st</sup> draft submitted to Board of Regents in July for comments
    - Revisions from Board input and other campus groups with another draft available Aug. 30.
    - Currently receiving feedback for the Aug. 30 revision. Forums taking place in September
    - Feedback taken until Sept. 30 with a final recommendation prepared for the November Board of Regents meeting
    - Also preparing a complementary document of narrative for history, description of terms, etc.

- Implementation to take place in late fall/spring
  - Departments will review their plans and align them with the new strategic plan
  - A metrics task force will be formed for assessment
- The SACS five year visit report will be due in March, 2015. The strategic plan will align with this report
- Recent Board of Regents meeting featured a presentation by student John Crum in which he addressed the meaningfulness of his growth through the relationship with faculty. These types of examples show the value of what the university does.
- **Provost (Gail Wells):**
  - This fall's enrollment information shows:
    - Increase of students enrolled with no academic deficiencies to 81% (from 58% Fall 2010)
    - Increase of average ACT score to 23.3 from 21.4 Fall 2010
    - Percent scoring 24+ on ACT to 42% from 26% Fall 2010
    - African-American enrollment gains up 16.7% from Fall 2010
    - Hispanic enrollment gains up 10.4% from 2010
    - Enrollment from 61 countries – an increase of 140% over the last 5 years
    - Student veteran population increased 14% over last year
  - Moving forward with Distinguished Professor implementation. Will spend the fall semester firming up details for this implementation including (but not limited to) the calendar, criteria, materials needed for submission, committee composition, etc. The final recommendation will be brought forward to the Board of Regents for a vote in January.
  - Applications encouraged for the Faculty Excellence Awards. These awards are for Excellent Performance by a Faculty Member (Excellence in Teaching, Excellence in Scholarly or Creative Activity, Excellence in Outreach and Public Engagement) and Sustained Excellence by a Faculty Member for a Project, Innovation or Creative Activity (Excellence in Teaching, Excellence in Scholarly or Creative Activity, Excellence in Outreach and Public Engagement)

#### **Officer Reports:**

- **Senate President (Steve Weiss):**
  - Jacqueline Emerine recently fell and broke her leg in several places. Doctors felt that it would be best to deliver her child at this time. Both are doing well and recovering at home.
  - Distinguished Professor implementation will address concerns by the Chairs and Deans. Michael Baranowski will lead a team to work on these issues which will include representation from the Deans and Chairs.

- Professional Concerns will work on issues regarding the numerous handbook revisions which need to be addressed. Carole Beere, Dir. Academic Affairs, reviewed the document and has identified areas which need correction.
- The Faculty Handbook contains 127 references to faculty members working with a “contract”.
- A parliamentary procedure “tip sheet” was reviewed covering common misconceptions.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- **Professional Concerns** (Jeffrey Williams):
  - Will be collaborating with Sara Sidebottom, VP Legal Affairs and General Counsel, in developing clear statement explaining revised verbiage on faculty appointment forms this year
  - Will be conducting a thorough review of the Faculty Policies and Procedures Handbook this year, including consideration of recommended changes from Carole Beere, with the goal of presenting to the Faculty Senate a draft of revised Handbook by early in the spring semester
  - Will likely attempt to clarify “Conditions to be Removed” part of the faculty reappointment procedure
- **Benefits** (Kim Clayton-Code):
  - 2 Faculty Development Award workshops were held with 28 attendees. The number of sabbatical awards are up 3 (22) from last year, the number of summer fellowships are the same (\$90K available) and the number of project grants are the same (\$56K available – up to \$6K per grant)
- **University Curriculum** (Richard Fox):
  - Study Abroad Topics courses will now be designated x95. Current courses do not have to be renumbered.
  - New general education courses are coming to the group for approvals
  - In the pipeline: new program for a Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care
- **Budget Committee** (Gary Clayton): No report
- **Teaching Effectiveness and Enhancement Committee** (Ken Rhee):
  - One Faculty Development Workshop in the fall (11/5-6: Helping students perform better research) and 2 in the spring
  - Survey forthcoming to faculty asking for feedback on TEEC activities

The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Perry Bratcher  
Secretary