

Faculty Senate Minutes
Tuesday March 16, 2010
Law School, Room 1-213, 3-5pm

Present: Fieldman, McArthur, Bethman, Ward-Smith, Krantz, Rice, Alleman, Davies, Wang, Humrichouser, Beard, Potts, Plamann, Carbone, Dinakarbandian, Hopkins, Madison-Canon, Luppino, Foxworth, Wyckoff, Ziskin, Pick, Yang,

Visitors: Vice-Chancellor MacQuarrie, Doug Swink (Registrar) Bob Schubert

Excused: Ebersole, Stancel, Holsinger, Hunter, Fincham, Johnston, Williams, Krause

Absent: Gardner, Nilsson,

Welcome-3:02, Called to order by the Vice-Chair Hali Fieldman

Informational Items

Bob Schubert noted that as the director of FACET he is available to help faculty with any of their computer problems. This might involve Microsoft Office questions, or others. Most of the help he can provide can be easily done in less than an hour but will save faculty a lot of time.

Vice-Chair Fieldman noted that Chair Ebersole and Senators Holsinger and Stancel are at the IFC meeting.

Approval of Agenda

No additions, agenda approved

Approval of Minutes for March 2, 2010

One correction was made to the minutes in reference to the next meeting.

Senator Rice moved to approve the minutes with the correction, Senator Foxworth seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Provost Report

Provost Hackett was unable to be at the meeting and asked Vice-Chancellor MacQuarrie to attend in her stead. He did not have a report to make, but was open for questions or comments. Senator Beard raised a question about the timing of spring break. Vice-Chancellor MacQuarrie said that his understanding is that in the past that this was system wide. Senator Krantz noted that part of the reason for the timing is that Rolla did not want to have spring break during St. Patrick's day. There is a need to coordinate breaks because of cooperative programs between campuses. Further questions were raised about how pedagogy enters into this discussion, the disruption that a late break causes in classes, and the financial implications for students who have children in area school districts that have different breaks. Senator Krantz noted that any proposed changes would have to go through the IFC. Vice-Chair Fieldman said that if there was a sense of urgency about this topic that a proposed course of action would be to form an ad hoc committee made up of representatives from relevant constituencies and then bring it to the attention of the IFC.

Registrar-Catalog Changes

Doug Swink (Registrar) was asked by the Provost to present the proposed changes to the Faculty Senate. Mr. Swink noted that this information had been previously presented to the Dean's Council. The proposed changes affect how courses are set up in the online catalog. There are different data elements associated with each course. The instruction modes cover in person, internet only, or blended modes. The components cover things like lecture, lab, and independent study. Examples of attributes cover characteristics of the course like: writing intensive, honors, service learning, etc.

What prompted this discussion was movement at the system level for e-learning. Mr. Swink noted that this is making us look at courses and definitions. There was also an issue that when Pathway was implemented it had to convert from a 30 year old system to new one. Because of that there is duplicated information in the catalog, like independent study being counted as a component and an attribute. The System is talking about one definition of e-learning, but it does not work as well with internet based modes of instruction. He noted that they came up with their own definition.

Mr. Swink said that what they would like to do is have four instruction modes: classroom based, blended (classroom and internet), online synchronies (which would meet as specified times), and online asynchronies. He noted that they have talked about implementing new components: studio (hands on), exam only, internships, and others. The current list of attributes is listed on page 3 of the handout and would stay the same, except for internet and internship. There would be no impact for faculty. The only impact is how they are entered into the computer system. They are working hard so that this is not a burden to anyone. However, there is a timeline they are working on. They cannot have new info up for summer and fall if these changes are not approved. During part of the discussion it was noted that these changes are strictly for internal use. They will not be used for course numbers. Some of the attributes will be at the catalog level, meaning that they have to have other approval. Some will be at the course level. Attributes can also be set up at the unit level.

A question was raised about what Mr. Swink needed from the Senate in this regard. He noted that they are looking for approval of the components and instruction modes. The components would be added to the existing list. Vice-Chair Fieldman asked if these components would easily transfer to other universities. Mr. Swink said that they would and that they have been worked out with the system. Questions were raised about how the instruction modes and components would be used. Mr. Swink noted that the aim is that this would set up a system that would make it easier for everyone to drill down to the specifics of a course much more easily, and facilitate searching in the catalog. He (Swink) noted that by having this system in place, it would allow them to clean up the information so that they can be more consistent in its use. Senator Ziskin moved to approve the proposed changes. It was seconded by Senator Potts and the motion was passed with one abstention.

Vice-Chair Fieldman asked that information be sent to advisors and units on the process of adding attributes. Mr. Swink said that was a good idea to do that and that they will work on it.

Sense of Senate Resolution-Domestic Partner Benefits

Copies of other resolutions regarding the inclusion of domestic partners in health benefits from around the System were sent out to the Senate. One point that was raised was the cost. It was noted that when Betsy Rodriguez was asked about this, she said that it would have a negligible impact. She further noted that her information about this comes from other organizations that have done this. Senator Alleman asked that if the Senate was to form a resolution, what would be the next course of action. It was noted that it would go to the IFC next. Senator Potts commented that this would nudge the central officers to take the required steps in the process. Senator Bethman said that the Staff Council passed a resolution to write a letter in support and that she would pass it on. Further comments noted that Missouri does not have any legislation on this topic and that people have left UMKC because of this.

Senator Rice raised another point that the System does not recognize common law marriages. Senator Carbone noted that Missouri will recognize common law marriages from other states that allows for those types of relationships. There was broad agreement that domestic partnerships should include more than just same sex relationships. Senator Carbone noted that one of the problems is that domestic partnerships do not have a formal definition.

Senator Yang asked if the University ever checked someone's marriage license? The discussion that followed noted that it becomes a legal issue if someone claims benefits in the case when they were not married. Another point raised was that many organizations have partner benefits and that is the above question regarding marriage is the only question that is asked.

Vice-Chair Fieldman noted that there is agreement of the basic principle but that the intention seems to be to broaden the concept so that important constituencies are not left out. The following discussion centered on the process to follow. It was noted that other institutions in the System have already acted on this, and that the Senate could say that they agree with the principle and then have the IFC work out the details. The problem that was raised is that the Senate's discussion has gone beyond the other resolutions. The suggestion was made that the Senate not try to get to specific in the first step and to state their agreement with the provision that the broadest definition of domestic partnership be used. All were in favor of this.

Senator Luppino raised a separate question as to whether the Senate should let the IFC take care of the issue or if the Senate should take the lead in this issue? Points were raised that any discussion should include representation from appropriate constituencies. Senator Luppino moved that the Senate ask the Provost to put together a task force made up of representative stakeholders to develop a statement that reflects the campus' values on this issue. All were in favor.

AAUP-American Association of University Professors

Senator Pick invited everyone to attend their next meeting which was on March 19, 2010. Their meetings are both social and business in nature.

Electing Members to Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

The issue that was raised is that the first members of this committee were elected to staggered terms. However, the committee was not formed until late into its first year. There was concern

raised that individuals would be rotating off after the first year and that the knowledge they gained would go with them. The suggestion was made that the elections for this committee be postponed for one year. The suggestion from the Executive Committee was that the elections go forward as proposed. Senator Hopkins noted that the problem is that the College already has names on a ballot for this position. He asked the individual who would be rotating off if they would continue to advise the committee, which they agreed to, but noted that they did not want to serve a three year term. Senator Krantz commented that if no action is taken then nothing changes. No action was taken.

Service Issue

Senator McArthur raised the issue that the way service is interpreted across units varies. It was noted in the discussion that there are definitions in place, in several different areas. The problem seems to be in how those definitions are implemented and interpreted among each of the units. Senator Beard raised the point that there seems to be a lack of transparency in how units evaluate service and that some sort of faculty governance in the process would help. Senator Dinakarpanian asked whether service should be considered as purely a voluntary activity and therefore not really part of workload. Several Senate members insisted that service was a very important part of workload in their units. Senator Carbone noted that there is also the problem of prioritization and monitoring and that since there is very little money for raises, then prioritization becomes of little importance. Vice-Chair Fieldman noted that there seems to be a lot of interest in this and that it should be brought up with the Provost and figure out where to go from there.

Nominations Committee

Rochelle Ziskin stated there was a problem with the upcoming elections. A draft of the ballot was sent out before it was time. There was a response from one individual that was upset by this. The ballots will have to go out again electronically and anyone who has already voted will have to vote again. So far there are two candidates for chair, two for vice-chair, and three for the IFC representative.

Adjourned at 4:58. The next meeting is on April 6, 2010 in the Plaza room