

Faculty Council Minutes
February 6, 2008

Present: M. Miller (chair), D. Brown (recorder in turn), D. Carusi, R. Kipp, R. Danford, J. Scott, M. Sibicky and J. Sullivan. Visitors: G. Delemeester, J. Khorassani and T. McZee

1. Minutes from the January 30, 2008 meeting were approved.
2. Council entered executive session to discuss a proposal for an honorary degree.
3. Miller announced that the faculty phone tree needed to be updated. Departments were assigned to council members. Council members will collect the information and report back to Miller.

Brown: Biology and Environmental Science, Chemistry, Education, Theatre Arts

Carusi: Communications and Media Studies, Art and Music

Danford: Modern Languages, Physics, Sports Medicine and Physicians Assistant

Miller: Mathematics and Computer Science

Sibicky: Psychology, Petroleum Engineering and Geology and EMA

Sullivan: English, History and Leadership

4. McZee informed council about Black History Month activities, including the 1st Annual Diversity Summit, which will be held on Feb. 23. Council suggested that announcements of these activities be posted on the Multicultural Affairs website in addition to the places that they have already been advertised.

Council discussed the possibility of having brown-bag lunch meetings for instructors of courses that meet the diversity and social analysis general education requirements. This would allow these instructors to get together and discuss strategies and ideas for these courses. Council will ask the Curriculum Committee to look into this possibility.

5. President Scott provided information about the recent incident of weapons being found in a car in a campus parking lot. Scott informed council that the situation had been resolved.
6. Provost Kipp presented a draft of a document that outlines how instances of academic dishonesty will be reported and how an allegation of academic dishonesty can be appealed by a student.
7. Provost Kipp reported that the Academic Standards Committee has recommended changes to the GPA requirements for the Dean's List (from 3.0 to 3.5) and the High Dean's List (from 3.5 to 3.75). These proposed changes would go into effect starting with the 2008-09 academic year.
8. Provost Kipp reported that there had been some requests for student evaluations to be made available sooner. As a possible solution, on-line evaluations are being considered. Kipp reported that other institutions have used this type of system and had a greater than 90% response rate from students. Such a system would still allow for optional questions.

It was noted that any changes to the student evaluation process needed to be considered carefully since this could have an impact on the results obtained and might be a concern, in particular for junior faculty.

9. A proposal by a faculty member that anonymous input from department faculty be included in the evaluations of departmental chairs was presented. This proposal will be forwarded to the chairs meeting.
10. The agenda for the February 11, 2008 Faculty Meeting was discussed.
11. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.