

FACULTY COUNCIL
Minutes of Jan. 15, 2009 Meeting

Present: Barnas, Bland, Carusi, Golden, Kipp, Pate (recorder-in-turn), Scott, Sibicky (chair)

1. Meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.
2. Minutes from Dec. 4, 2008 meeting unanimously approved.
3. Search committees discussed:
 - Council approved Ali Doerflinger and Matt Young for chemistry search (both had agreed to serve prior to Council vote)
 - Council approved Mark Miller, Sid Potash, Bev Hogue, Tim Catalano for Graphic Design and Art History searches (unclear at this time whether these faculty are willing to participate. Sibicky will notify Powell, Ingersoll of Council approval)
4. Council went into Executive Session from 3:15-3:50 p.m.
5. Council discussed faculty response to online course evaluations conducted in fall semester
 - largely positive anecdotal response
 - Kipp announced that 78% of students had completed at least 93% of their evaluations although response rate was perhaps not quite as high as anticipated (one suggestion was made that faculty not post their FINAL grades on WebCT so that students had more of an incentive to complete the surveys)
 - some acknowledgment that there were small problems associated with team-taught courses (faculty being inappropriately evaluated). Was determined that individual departments probably need to work on these minor flaws.
6. Sibicky announced that Gloria Stewart will attend Jan. 22 Council meeting to discuss Human Subjects Committee
7. Council members were given Policy on Care and Use of Vertebrate Animals in Research and Instruction (written by Steve Spilatro) and asked to review this document for discussion at Jan. 22 Council meeting.
8. Sibicky informed Council of a conflict that occurred in the faculty development committee this fall as one of the members was awarded a sabbatical for next year. This occurred due to a late committee assignment switch that occurred this fall. It was suggested that for this year's faculty committee questionnaire an additional check-box would be added for the question "Do you plan to apply for a sabbatical next year?"

9. Council discussed list of top priorities identified from faculty survey conducted in fall.
 - Salaries – suggestion made that we look into some aspects (e.g. gender equality)
 - McCoy – decided this was a low priority issue
 - Dental plan – Council will invite Dan Bryant to discuss options
 - Capstones – Kipp presented data showing capstone evaluations received lower scores than college average for all courses. Kipp will continue collecting data to share with Council. This is a topic that Council will likely continue to discuss.
 - Course loads – Council identified this as a top priority to work on in future meetings
 - Conference services – Low priority issue
 - Faculty council role in governance – Sibicky is working to rewrite portion of handbook dealing with Faculty Council's role in hiring decisions. Will present to Council and administration
 - Professional Development – Determined there probably isn't much Council can do about funding shortfall, but some research will be done into how money is distributed (Barnas will contact Prof. Dev. Committee for data)
 - Committee Work – Top priority: Sibicky will contact Committee chairs in an attempt to find out whether committees think fewer or more members are needed. Hope is that some committee numbers might be cut in an attempt to lessen committee work for faculty
 - Campus Announcements – Dawn will contact Tom Perry to give data from faculty survey. Sibicky will invite to future Council meeting to discuss manner in which campus announcements are made.

10. Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.