

Faculty Council Minutes
March 5, 2009

Present: Barnas (recorder-in-turn), Bland, Carusi, Pate, Sibicky (chair), Smith-Kipp (Provost).

1. Minutes from the February 26 meeting were approved.
2. Council discussed the agenda for the March 16 faculty meeting. Sibicky noted that motions for the actionable items must be posted for faculty to review by March 10.
3. Carusi briefly informed updated council on efforts to keep the Jewitt speeches to 7 minutes during graduation.
4. Council discussed concerns about updating college web pages (e.g, Gender Studies). Carusi reported that she was told no updates could be completed at this time. Kipp confirmed that due to the efforts to completing change our college site it was unlikely that individual updates would take place until mid-summer.
5. Luding Tong, Chair of the Faculty Development Committee joined the meeting to report on the committee's activity. Her report included the following:
 - a. Tong felt that the committee size was appropriate but that it is important to ensure all major departments are represented as council appoints future committee members.
 - b. Tong discussed the committee's policy for the revision of sabbatical proposals. She reported that the committee generally felt that the proposals needed to be initially strong and to follow the guidelines stated in the faculty manual. After discussion, council recommended that next year's committee make public the policy that faculty members may or may not be given the opportunity to revise sabbatical proposals based on the initial evaluation of the committee.
 - c. Tong reported on efforts of the committee to work toward providing more explicit feedback for all proposals and awards reviewed by FDC. Council discussed these efforts at length. There was some agreement that it is difficult to standardize the feedback because proposals include very different projects, teaching ideas etc.
 - d. Council discussed Tong's questions regarding whether supporting documents (e.g., letter from department chairs) are really necessary when evaluating minigrant applications for travel. Council concluded that this letter did not really add essential information and that FDC could discuss applications with department chairs if they had questions about the proposal. It was recommended that this requirement be dropped next year.
 - e. Tong discussed the need to set guidelines for various grants and awards reviewed by FDC.
6. The meeting adjourned at 4:40.