

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes October 19, 2012

Attendees:

President: Pat Wurth

Vice President: George Meghabghab

Secretary: Marianna Mabry

TBR Sub-council Rep.:

Parliamentarian: Brad Fox

Math Science:

Eric Bouldin

Ben King

Ron Sternfels

Allied Health:

Sue Sain

Karen Feltner

Teri Gergen

Nursing:

Vickie Harris

Linda Williams

Elaine Nagelson

Ruth Palmer

Humanities

Ralph Monday

Ted Stryke

Social Science/Business and Education

Casey Cobb

David Lane

Library:

Ollie Nolan

Quorum was established

Pat Wurth called the meeting to order.

The minutes from the September 2012 meeting were amended and approved. The amendment regarded the opening date of the new building at the Oak Ridge Campus. The correct date is August 2013.

TBR Sub-Council Representative

The current faculty member in that position is Pat Jenkins. Pat was recently promoted to the Dean of the Nursing Department and is therefore ineligible to serve. Pat Wurth said that Pam Siergiej had agreed to fill the position. There was a motion to approve Pam and a second. Pam Siergiej is now the TBR Sub –council representative

Vice President of Academic Affairs Search

Pat Wurth said it was suggested to her from a colleague that the search and selection should be faculty driven and statement should be issued from the senate stating this position. The question was raised whether any member of the senate is on the VP search committee. Pat Wurth noted she has asked to

be included on the search committee. A discussion ensued that the policy may already allow for faculty members and faculty senate members to be included on the search committee. After discussion, it was determined the senate would ask if the current policy for the VP of academic Affairs search committee includes division faculty and/or faculty senate members, if it does then no action need be taken if not the senate will pursue the discussion at the next meeting.

Constitution Committee

Brad Fox said the committee has plans to meet but has not yet done so and therefore there was nothing to report at this time. It was noted that Chris Whaley had requested the faculty senate review the process by which Academic and Curriculum Council members were selected. It was suggested to the senate the timing of the appointment of these members be changed to the division meetings rather than the first faculty senate meeting.

Syllabus Committee

The members met on 10/5 and reviewed the suggestions submitted by Ralph Monday (these were suggestions from the faculty in the Humanities Division). The committee is halfway through the process and will meet again and do a final review and hopefully the senate can have a vote on the final syllabus template for RSCC.

Security Committee

George said he met with Danny Gibbs and there are funds available (mentioned in the prior meeting) which may mean some of the items presented by the senate on the "wish list" might still become a reality. George said he is open to any suggestions to add to the "wish list". Regarding the TSU incident where the President of the college and the Faculty Senate president had issues and it resulted in the Faculty Senate president being handcuffed and charged, George is going to ask Danny to attend the next senate meeting. The purpose of this would be to review the RSCC policy and ensure the president of the college does not have the authority to remove the faculty senate president and appoint a new faculty senate president. It was also discussed the need to make sure that during the shared governance process faculty senate members be able to speak freely without retaliations from administration. It was also noted that RSCC enjoys a great relationship with the current administration and has not experienced any problems regarding the ability to speak freely without fear of retaliation. The senate expressed the desire to speak with Danny Gibbs to make sure we do have the proper policies to protect the value and idea of shared governance.

Danny Gibbs will be invited to the next meeting.

Email Issues

No new business to be reported at this time.

Official Station

This was tabled from the last (September) meeting. The entire RSCC policy was provided for all senate members to review. There was a motion to change the official travel policy by deleting the following:

Web, Hybrid and RODP courses will not be included in the determination as they have no specific or consistent instructional location.

And replace with the following language:

Up to 3 (3 hour) courses of either Web, Hybrid or combination of the two per term will count toward the determination of the faculty member's official station and office hours.

A motion was seconded. A faculty senate member noted the Dean still determines the faculty member's official station.

New Business

The situation at TSU and the arrested faculty senate president was discussed at length. Pat Wurth received an email from ETSU wanting a statement of support from RSCC for the TSU faculty senate president. Many of the senate did some online research to try to determine exactly what had transpired. Instead of issuing a statement the senate decided to consult with Danny Gibbs regarding our own policies in place regarding the removal and appointment of faculty senate presidents. At this time the senate decided not to issue any statement.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marianna Mabry
Faculty Senate Secretary