

Faculty Senate Minutes

January 12, 2007

Call to Order: Gay Mills, President, called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Senators Present: Gay Mills, Scott Beckett, Margie Waguespack, Mindy Adams, Steve Beckham, Mike Bellah, Nancy Brent, Judy Isbell, Judy Jackman, Lana Jackson, Michael Kopenits, Aimee Martin, Mark Rowh for Jan Martin and Sheree Talkington, Bob Mathews, Karen McIntosh for Lil Withrow, Henry Wyckoff

Senators Absent: Larry Adams, Karla Dixon, D'dee Grove

Visitors: Carroll M. Forrester

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of December 1, 2006 were approved as written.

Guests: Lynn Thornton and Brenda Bussey from Human Resources and Sharon Doggett from Business Affairs

Lynn Thornton and Brenda Bussey explained the rationale behind the new evaluation form and evaluation procedure for administrators. In former years, administrators were evaluated by faculty members, but this was discontinued because administrators felt that faculty responses were often negative or unhelpful. It was also pointed out that Human Resources does not have the manpower to read all the faculty's evaluations. Some Senators pointed out that faculty members must continue to be evaluated by their subordinates, their students, whether the responses are negative or not, and that faculty members learn from these responses. Supervisors are now responsible for evaluating administrators.

Sharon Doggett explained the faculty step system and the rationale behind its creation. Senators discussed the fact that step amounts decrease with the length of time taught, and that faculty who are "stepped out" do not receive the same salary increase that other faculty members do—2.27 % compared to 3% this year. Sharon noted that 43% of AC faculty are "stepped out." Sharon explained that the step system was meant to encourage professional development because additional education and degrees lead to salary increases. Some Senators pointed out that educational costs have increased dramatically over the past twenty years and while it might have been cost effective to take more courses for a salary increase twenty years ago, now it is not.

President's Report

Gay Mills

Gay reported that Bob Austin consulted her about the Academic Calendar before releasing it, a welcome development. Gay also noted that the Senate's April meeting date

had been changed from April 6 (Good Friday) to March 30 and that the Board of Regents' meeting date had been changed from January 23 to January 30.

Committee Reports

Salary Committee: Scott Beckett reported that the Committee had finalized its presentation for Dr. Jones and would schedule that presentation. He also asked if the faculty salary/step table shared by Human Resources could be scanned and posted for faculty to view.

Technology Committee: No report

Courtesy Committee: Nancy Brent reported on cards sent to faculty members.

Professor Emeritus Committee: This committee will be meeting soon to review possible candidates.

Questions Committee: No report

Faculty Development Committee: Michael Kopenits reported that another ACTS retreat has been planned in Santa Fe and requested that faculty email him their departmental faculty development needs.

Old Business

Margie Waguespack requested that Faculty Survey Committee members stay after the meeting to set a Committee meeting date to revise survey questions.

Mark Rowh reported that he had not heard of any developments or progress in the West Campus parking issue.

New Business

Michael Kopenits reported that the Internal Needs Committee had turned in its report that prioritized AC's capital improvement needs. There was discussion that some faculty were unaware of or uninvolved with this process and that a few buildings/areas with pressing needs were not addressed.

Adjournment: 4:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: Friday, February 9, 2007, Washington St. Campus, CUB Private Dining Room, at 3 p.m.