Draft Minutes for Faculty Senate Meeting on 1/12/2016

Senators attending: Wahome, Liu, Minks, Gosa, Hoque, Gosa, Manju, Newsome, Trent, Warren, White, Vaughn, Rueber

Absent: Ford, Stevens, Belton, Colllins-Sharp, Dumas, Rash, Washington

1. Opening Business
2. Call to order – Dr. Wahome
3. Approval of Agenda: Dr. Liu asked that the Senate add a new member to the Faculty Development Fund committee; several members asked that we add a discussion of issues involving Blackboard; Dr. Wahome said that because of lack of action Tenure and Promotion matters will be shelved until the next meeting. The agenda as amended was adopted.
4. No minutes from last meeting were available.
5. Old Business
6. Summer grants: Dr. Liu distributed the new policy issued by President Bynum and Dr. Golden. It included numerous changes and additions to previous policy. Numerous senators raised questions about the fact the summer research funds are tied to teaching: those teaching are limited to a $2500 reward; those not teaching are eligible for $5000. Senators pointed out that much of these awards are used to obtain necessary tools/materials, and that limiting funds to those who teach might adversely affect their ability to research. Dr. Rueber asked if the use of funds for Administrative Development is a proper use of this money; Mr. Minks asked for an accounting of the funds not dispensed in previous years. Dr. Wahome said he would bring these issues to Dr. Golden.

Dr. Liu said that because of the delay we needed to change the deadline for applications for the 2016 year. He moved that the 2016 deadline be changed from January 31 to February 16. Motion seconded by Dr. Hoque; motion passed.

1. Tenure and Promotion Calendar: Dr. Wahome will distribute the new calendar when he receives it from the Office of Academic Affairs.
2. Grievance Appeal Committee: Due to a conflict of interest, the Committee requires a new member. Dr. Gosa moved that Mrs. Collins-Sharp be added providing she accepted. Dr. Liu seconded. Motion passed. Dr. Wahome noted that misunderstandings seem to exist about the proper policy for handling grievances: the Faculty Senate has one process, while Academic Affairs has another. This has the potential of confusing matters and causing problems.
3. Post-Tenure Review: Mr. Minks reported that Academic Affairs is aware of the Senate’s interest in this matter but even though individual faculty members have been informed they are under review, Academic Affairs has shared no information with the Faculty Senate.
4. Senate Office: Dr. Wahome reported that work continues on the Faculty Senate office.
5. New Business
6. Grades First: Mr. Minks shared his issues with Grades First; other senators echoed his sentiments. Among other problems, the class information and roll is not correct, the program is not compatible with Macs, and it is unclear why we need to enter attendance information in both Grades First and Banner. The general sentiment was that bugs need to be worked out before faculty should be expected to implement new programs. Dr. Wahome will contact University College to address our concerns.
7. Ayers Funding: Dr. White expressed her concern about the lack of movement in addressing the sunset of the Ayers funding – which will effect a large percentage of faculty around the campus. Dr. Wahome said that he has brought this issue to both the President and the VP of Academic Affairs. President Bynum acknowledged that the funds will be cut but offered no plans to offset these revenue losses; Dr. Bland merely smiled enigmatically when asked. It was decided that we should invite President Bynum and Dr. Bland to a Faculty Senate meeting to address our concerns.
8. Faculty Salary – tabled until the February meeting.
9. Faculty Development Funds Committee: Dr. Ford has resigned her position so we need to add a member. Lin Knutson’s name was proposed. Liu moved and Gosa seconded that Dr. Knutson be added to the committee. Motion passed.
10. Matters arising: A number of senators raised issues about the use of Blackboard, and specifically that all faculty – not just those teaching online or hybrid courses – should have access. Dr. Wahome will communicate with IT. Ms. Vaughn provided documentation from the Fine Arts accrediting body indicating that the MFA is the terminal degree in Fine Arts.

Meeting adjourned by common consent at 12:30

Minutes prepared by Micah Rueber