FSEC Minutes August 21, 2014

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes #8

August 21, 2014

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:11 AM on Monday, August 21, 2014 in Library Conference Room A, Chairperson Nassersharif presiding. Senators Cerbo, Rollo Koster, and Rarick, were present. Senators Sullivan and Welters were absent.

2. Minutes from Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #7, August 4, 2014 were approved.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

a. The committee discussed the agenda items for the upcoming meeting with the Provost scheduled for August 25, 2014. Items of discussion included the appointment of the new dean of the Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Continuing Education.

b. Inquiries were made regarding how the work and responsibilities were being managed in the Division of Research and Economic Development in the absence of the Vice President. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) members were unaware of the status of the situation in that office.

c. Chairperson Nassersharif noted that he would be sending out a welcome back letter to the faculty and asked for feedback from the other committee members.

d. Chairperson Nassersharif reminded that committee of the upcoming meeting with the President on August 28, 2014. He indicated that he had researched articles on shared governance and suggested that other members also research the subject.

e. The FSEC committee called into question the format of the new faculty orientation. There was concern that there would not be ample opportunity for the Senate Chair and the Vice Chair to fully educate new faculty about the Faculty Senate.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

a. The FSEC discussed the faculty senate appointments to the Intellectual Property (IP) Committee. Chairperson Nassersharif reported that he had had a discussion regarding the composition of the IP Committee and a suggestion was made for more faculty and fewer administrators in the make up of the committee.

b. Jim Kinnie, Chair of the University College General Education Committee (UCGE), and Judith Swift, Chair of the General Education Implementation Steering Committee (GEIST) arrived at 9:35 a.m. Chairperson Nassersharif and the other committee members of the FSEC welcomed them and thanked them both for coming to the meeting.

c. The FSEC discussed the reasons for establishing the General Education Implementation Steering Committee (GEIST). The University College General Education Committee (UCGE) is looking forward to its first full meeting in September. The Chair has been meeting with the previous chair over the summer. The GEIST will also be meeting for the first time in September. Professor Swift enumerated her objectives and goals for the implementation team, which included adhering strictly to the program as it was approved, developing streamlined
processes, meeting with chair of appropriate committee to determine areas of responsibility, and ensuring the regular reporting of progress to the FSEC.

The FSEC discussed the development of the online general education course approval forms currently hosted on the College of Engineering server. The determination was made that technological developments fall under the jurisdiction of the steering team.

Discussion ensued of the need for the new general education program to be easily understandable to faculty, students, and staff, to have a plan of action for overlap of the current and new general education programs, and for workshops to be held in order to promote and familiarize the faculty with the new program.

The committee agreed that the faculty need to be well grounded in not only the nuisances of the new general education program, but also in the learning outcomes and expectations of the rubrics that are already in place.

Some merits and anticipated benefits of this new program were identified as:

- This program has a lot of flexibility across courses

- A new landscape with new choices can make departments stronger

- Students will have ability to responsibly choose a broader general education experience

- Departments/faculty may have the opportunity to change teaching techniques, exposing them to new and broader ideas

- New interests and collaborations may be formed between faculty and departments

- It was noted that the Grand Challenge courses would need to be proposed and approved through the established legislative process

Chairperson Nassersharif moved discussion to the Stakeholders Committee for General Education. He asked for recommendations of a chair of Stakeholders Committee. The FSEC discussed chair selection, recommending that the person be knowledgeable of faculty issues, the FSEC, and the legislative process.
Professor Kinnie and Professor Swift left the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A point of order was made that it would be advantageous for the FSEC to be able to offer refreshments to guests. A discussion ensued regarding the feasibility of an independent Faculty Senate budget to sponsor Senate receptions, guest speakers, and other miscellaneous items. Chairperson Nassersharif suggested that permission be sought to initiate fundraising of Foundation funds for this initiative. Discussion confirmed that this would require the approval of the Provost and the President. A request was made to have Ms. Neff add a line item to the agendas for the upcoming meetings with the Provost and the President.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Lawrence
Specialist, Faculty Senate