

Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, October 13, 2011
Library 209 A&B

Dr. Fergeson called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. The following members were present:

Dr. Bill Abrams	Dr. David Hardin	Dr. Tim Pierson
Dr. Tom Akre	Dr. David Lehr	Dr. Charles Ross
Dr. Lee Bidwell	Dr. David Locascio	Dr. Robin Smith
Dr. Stephanie Buchert	Dr. David Magill	Dr. Chris Swanson
Dr. Theresa Clark	Ms. Sharon Menegoni	Dr. Derek Taylor
Ms. Kerri Cushman	Ms. Suzy Palmer	Dr. William Thomson
Dr. Rodney Dunning	Ms. Melissa Panzarello	Ms. Kathy Worster
Dr. Melody Eaton	Ms. Tatiana Pashkova-	Dr. Melissa Yeager
Dr. Lara Fergeson	Blakenhol	Mr. Ben Tyree (SGA)
Dr. Lily Goetz	Dr. Ken Perkins	
Dr. Jackie Hall	Dr. Jeannine Perry	

The following members were not in attendance: Dr. Ayse Balas, Dr. Paul Barrett, Dr. Chris Jones, Dr. Deneese Jones, Dr. Gena Southall, and Dr. Linda Wright. Also present were Dr. Chuck Blauvelt, Chief Bob Beach, Ms. Kathy Charleston, Dr. Ed Kinman, Mr. Mark Lenker, Dr. Lissa Power-deFur, and Dr. Carl Riden.

The minutes for September 15, 2011, were approved as distributed.

Ms. Menegoni presented the Educational Policies Committee report on the actions taken at the meeting on September 27, 2011. This report included two action items that required Senate approval. The first was a proposal for guidelines for GNED-prefixed courses. Dr. Abrams made a motion to amend the first guideline as follows: "Courses offered or proposed with the GNED prefix must [replacing should] promote faculty collaboration and interdisciplinary approaches." The motion was seconded. After discussion, Dr. Abrams revised his motion as follows: "Courses with the GNED prefix should promote faculty collaboration and must involve interdisciplinary approaches or subject matter." The motion passed. With no further discussion, the proposal for guidelines for GNED-prefixed courses was approved.

The second action item from the EPC Committee asked for approval for a new course, GNED 400 – Exploring Public Issues through Writing. Noting the success of the Yellowstone program, the course was approved.

Dr. Magill reported on the initiatives of the Diversity Council. This council has established three committees:

1. Culture in the Classroom –will focus on curriculum issues and work on creating faculty development opportunities on diversity issues. They will conduct a faculty survey on preferences for the structure and delivery of these workshops, but the Office of Diversity and Inclusion will also conduct individual consultations as well as group consultations if asked.
2. Praxis – will focus on creating programming and conversations across campus on diversity.

3. Research & Assessment Practices – will analyze information collected last year in a student survey and promote research opportunities for diversity as well as assist in developing assessment tools for diversity issues.

Dr. Fergeson reminded senators that President Finnegan is offering \$1000 grants for research and programming on diversity. This opportunity was announced in an email and has a rolling deadline.

Dr. Magill announced that the University Diversity Council would like to have two more faculty members on the committee.

Dr. Perkins noted that on page 180 of the FPPM we have the University Committee on Minority Faculty Recruitment. He commented that we need to get this committee going and noted that the Director of Multicultural Affairs (now called Director of Diversity and Inclusion) is a part of this committee. This committee reports to the VPAA.

Next on the agenda was a discussion of faculty line-up for academic ceremonies. Dr. Fergeson reminded senators that the next opportunity for faculty to line-up is Friday, October 21, 2011, for the President's Inauguration. The faculty will gather in the front lobby of the Chichester building at 1:00 p.m. and begin processing at 1:50 p.m. Dr. Fergeson then asked senators for the feedback they had gathered from their departmental faculty regarding the current system for faculty line-up for academic ceremonies. In general, some faculty don't really care while others appreciate the ceremonial nature of lining up by rank and seniority, particularly for more formal ceremonies like Commencement; most agreed that the current system of hollering names to line up the faculty needs to be improved. The consensus was that the faculty would continue to line up by rank and seniority, and that Dr. Fergeson would ask the Faculty Marshalls to work on developing a better, more orderly system for lining up faculty.

Dr. Fergeson made the following announcements:

1. The initiative to put the student evaluation of teaching on line will be taken to the Technology Committee.
2. She has asked EPC to take a look at moving the due date for grade estimates to be closer to mid-term which may require moving the withdrawal deadline.
3. Faculty brought to Senate Executive Committee the question of whether promotion and tenure materials could migrate from the three-ring binder to an online portfolio. The Senate Executive Committee would continue to explore this possibility and possibly refer it to a committee in the near future.
4. Dr. Bob Frank has been invited to the November Senate meeting to talk about the ESL program that will begin in January, and Dr. Fergeson urged senators to invite interested faculty to attend. It was noted that this program offers no academic credit; it is designed to improve the English language skills of foreign students who want to continue their education in America. Mr. Keith Boswell, director of the English language program, is also invited to the meeting.
5. The President's Inauguration is a ticketed event; faculty must march to get in or be participating in some other way that provides a ticket. The ceremony begins at 2:30 p.m. and will be over by 3:30 p.m.

Dr. Perkins noted that when Dr. Orth retired in June, it left a gap in several areas. To fill the gap temporarily, he asked Dr. Susan May to handle new faculty orientation as well as several other tasks.

Dr. Perkins would like to bring his old position (associate vice president for enrollment management and

student success) into the VPAA office. The person in this new position would oversee several offices including New Student Programs, Learning Center, Registration, Admission, etc. He is looking for someone with a terminal degree who would bring synergy to this initiative.

Chief Beach reported that the new emergency alert system has the capability of posting the alert to classroom computers if the computer is connected to the network. He informed senators that 40 percent of the people on campus can't hear the siren alert because they are in a building. In classes, faculty and students generally are not receiving emails and text alerts thus creating a gap in the alert system. Chief Beach addressed the concern that the alert system might be used for warnings that do not warrant interrupting a class. He explained the three levels of threat alert and promised that only verifiable and credible Level I and II emergencies indicating imminent and high risk of danger would be posted to classroom computers. Discussion followed with Senators noting that computers may not be on or connected to the network in many classrooms. Concerns were also expressed that faculty may not know what to do; Chief Beach pointed out that they offer Code Red training and urged faculty and staff to attend this training designed to prepare them to respond to emergency situations. The new emergency alert system policy will be presented to the Board of Visitors for approval at the December meeting.

Under new business, Dr. Bidwell expressed concern about the ridiculous Tweets on the Longwood homepage and the image (too social and not enough academic) that Longwood is projecting with its public relations. She suggested that guidelines need to be developed with some filters in place to manage what is being communicated publicly about Longwood. Senators generally agreed that this issue needs to be addressed with the new associate vice president for public relations, and Dr. Ferguson volunteered to bring this up with Dr. Brian Rowland, vice president for advancement, when she meets with him.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Melinda Fowlkes