

Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, December 10, 2009
Virginia Room

Dr. Amoss called the meeting to order at 3:38 p. m. The following members were present:

Dr. Jennifer Apperson	Dr. Mikie Flanigan	Dr. Wayne McWee
Dr. Paul Barrett	Dr. Jackie Hall	Dr. Tim Pierson
Dr. Lee Bidwell	Dr. David Hardin	Dr. Keith Rider
Dr. Gretchen Braun	Dr. Jim Haug	Dr. Cathy Roy
Dr. Theresa Clark	Dr. Ryan Hebert	Dr. David Shoenthal
Dr. Scott Cole	Dr. Chris Jones	Dr. Gena Southall
Dr. Roy Creasey	Dr. Deneese Jones	Dr. Pam Tracy
Ms. Kerri Cushman	Dr. Rená Koesler	
Dr. Alix Fink	Mr. Mark Lenker	

Not attending were Dr. Wendell Barbour, Dr. Chene Heady, Dr. Anthony Koyzis, Ms. Claire LaRoche, Dr. Gerald Montoya, Dr. Eric Moore, Dr. Gene Muto, Dr. Charles Ross, Ms. Kathy Worster, and Mr. Keenan Crump. Also attending were Dr. Ed Kinman, Mr. Glenn Parker, and Ms. Hadley Sporbett.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as posted.

Dr. Amoss recognized Dr. Hall who presented for the EPC several information items. For the committee she moved the approval of changes to the Drop/Add Policy (posted on the Senate web page) clarifying the drop/add period for face-to-face, off-campus, online, and hybrid courses for fall and spring courses, for intersession or summer courses, and for short courses. The clarifications apply to the undergraduate and the graduate catalogs. The motion carried.

Dr. Amoss then asked Dr. Tracy to provide information about the search for a president. The committee has narrowed the field to four candidates and is now engaged in background checking. Candidates will be brought to campus during the first two weeks of February, and names will not be released until a week before their visits. Subsequently the committee will recommend three candidates to the Board of Visitors.

Dr. Amoss described the way the Senate will participate in the on-campus interviews. Faculty senators (excluding those on the search committee) will be divided into three groups each focusing on a particular topic and each led by a member of the Executive Committee:

1. Budget, Find-raising, Legislative and Community Relations
2. Academics
3. Student Affairs, Student Programs, Athletics

Each group will have 25 minutes with each candidate, and the search committee will provide evaluation forms for each faculty member to fill out for the search committee's use.

Dr. Amoss reported that the Academic Committee on Technology has been very active this year and would like to hear from faculty ideas or needs that would help them in their work. Senators should remind their departments to submit ideas to one of the committee members: Audrey Church, Timothy Holstrom, Linda Lau, Bob Lynch, Robert Marmorstein, Chris Register, Andrew Brovey.

Dr. Amoss recognized Dr. Rider who reported on the work of the Budget and Planning Committee. In January the committee will finish with the 2010 budget, about 60% of which has already been spent. During the February meeting the committee will begin work on the next year. He reported that the President plans to dip into reserves to minimize cuts, and Dr. Rider asked for clarification of the reserves and of the Foundation and Endowment funds. Dr. McWee explained that the Foundation is a separate entity that receives donations on behalf of the university. The foundation's purpose is to support the university. Some of the funds donated to the foundation are endowment funds. Endowment funds cannot be spent. Only the return on its investment can be used. The annual donations to the university may be given to support operations. There are three kinds of reserves: renewal and replacement; operations; and major renovations, acquisition, plant expansion, and program expansion. All reserves are funded from student fees to be used for the purposes for which they were collected. Money put into reserves from fees can be used in case of catastrophe or extreme hardship. The Board of Visitors reluctantly approved tapping the operations reserve fund should the state not provide the stimulus money the University has been counting on for the current year. NACUBO (National Association of College and University Business Officers) does have recommended levels of reserves that all higher education institutions should maintain. Funds taken from reserves do not have to be repaid.

Dr. Flanigan moved adjournment at 4:10 p.m.

Susan May