Arts and Sciences Chairs’ Council Meeting Minutes 4/21/14
DRAFT


Guest: Alexandru Balas

Announcements:

• Faculty Senate vacancies. 151 tenure track faculty in A&S; see Joanne’s email 4-17-14; there are 15 vacancies in A&S seats. Don’t forget GE committee is on that list. Bruce is appealing for your assistance.
• Comment: the Faculty Senate is broken. People see this already.
• Administrative update: there was a recent email about some SUNY campuses cutting posters. There are no plans on this campus to cut posters.
• GFEC is looking for new members from the Math/Sci area.

Topics Discussed:

• UUP – recent proposal that P/T appointments be no less than one year or ten months. HR generally supports this approach.
• Response: some departments want the flexibility to use a one-semester contract. Very context sensitive. Too many contingencies. The status quo does allow using a one-year contract at will.
• There is no actual change to their real status in terms of job security. Semester to semester changes are significant.
• Don’t forget the morale issue. Also, student teaching supervisors are sometimes once/year.
• Don’t forget interdisciplinary programs, depending on particular departments to offer key courses.
• Criteria for new line requests: one example is growth in the program; the specifics are important. Question of exceeding capacity. Possible addition to the list of criteria is length of vacancy. Student credit hours/FTE. The underlying problem is measuring workload accurately. On top of that you have the issue of release time. Class size is its own criterion (especially giant-size classes). Don’t forget the unmet GE demand and not providing the required courses.
• Workload report: one needed to make key corrections. There is still a problem in counting contact hours.
• Recall some grants restrict ability of professors to teach overload. Comparable size of other SUNY depts.. Don’t forget faculty are needed to deliver the program.
• There were gradual increases in class size over the years. Special Topics offerings work in the opposite direction. Are depts. who cut temporary budgets punished in this process?

**Concerns Raised:**

• Spring 2014 Final Exam Scheduling – the exam schedule had many errors. Not happy with the errors from the Registrar’s Office. Overlapping sciences and math exams. Does the last exam occur after the residence halls close?
• The ratio of faculty hires to administrative hires remains a concern.

**Dean’s Office:**

• Office 365- why now? There was not enough notice or consulting in advance. The timing is bad, given the pressure of the end of the semester. The lack of dialog is a symptom of disinterest in faculty.
• Fall 2014- there were 24 requests for switching classrooms at the Dean’s desk. He is not ready to address that, yet. The first issue is low enrolled courses.
• New faculty are not obliged to take furlough days. They are losing the DRL % in pay in the short term.

**Other: none**