

CHAIRS' COUNCIL MINUTES – April 30, 2007

Members Present: K. Alwes, S. Asumah, L. Ellis, L. Gatto, R. Kendrick, M. King, B. Mattingly, D. Miller, J. O'Callaghan, T. Pasquarello, T. Phillips, K. Russell, S. Steadman, H. Steck, P. van der Veur, R. Wheeler, K. Zimmerman, A. Zipp

Guest: L. Ashley

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by J. O'Callaghan. M. Prus is out of town until Monday.

Announcements:

Grant Opportunity for the Institute on Teaching Strategies will take place on June 18 and 19 on campus – grants for \$500 are available for faculty to re-design their courses. Contact Laura Gathagan, Director, Faculty Development Center.

NCATE Deadline: The visit has been changed from 2009 to spring 2010 as was requested. The data collection phase starts in fall 2007 for reports.

A survey will be coming regarding faculty projects with area schools: Data from the last three years is due by May 15, 2007 – with a focus on what is already taking place with the area schools. This is part of the research effort related to developing a professional development school.

Catalog Review Deadline (Phase II): Chairs will have from 5/2 – 5/11/07 to review the “Acalog” catalog (web catalog on-line). Catalogs will be in both formats and a PDF will be available. A brief discussion of the upcoming “Acalog” catalog system reignited concerns about the expense of printing hard copies of an on-line catalog. Chairs believe that it would be appropriate for the Provost's office to foot the bill for a bulk order of hard copies for distribution to faculty, department offices, etc. Associate Dean O'Callaghan will check with the Provost's Office.

Winter Session Proposals: Due date was technically April 30, but it is being **extended to May 7**.

Other Announcements

* S. Asumah - Summer Ethics Institute (May 21 – May 23) – Stipends of \$500 available to faculty to redesign their courses to include ethical issues – especially for faculty who teach in room G11 – encourage them to apply. Faculty are encouraged to participate. Refer to the email sent out today.

* Faculty marshals are needed for the second commencement ceremony. Call Darci or V. Levine if you would like to be a marshal.

* Gospel Choir Spring concert is May 6 – 4:00 p.m. Try to attend.

* The Art and Art History Department is hiring an art historian to replace B. Wisch – pre modern architecture instructor.

* H. Steck: A survey will be coming from ASC – they are thinking of closing the dining services in the Colloquium Room. (Room would be open, but no dining services.) Urged all to complete the survey and express your opinions.

* Concern was expressed about the absence of minutes from A&S Chairs' Council – J. O'Callaghan promised to resolve that. Likewise concern was raised about the practice of not taking minutes at Joint Chairs' Council.

A motion was made that the following statement forwarded to the Provost's Office:

Chairs noted that they would like to see the minutes taken and distributed in a timely fashion from Joint Chairs' Council. –All in favor: unanimous.

J. O'Callaghan will check with the Provost's office.

AGENDA:

External Review (T. Pasquarello) –

There was extensive discussion on the External Review process, the information leading up to the review process, and how it was brought to the faculty. It was noted that President Bitterbaum spoke to the Senate about this, and that it may be needed to tenure faculty in the future. The Senate approved it based on information given to them at the meeting. Subsequent information from Bob Spitzer at the Senate cast doubt on the rationale for the policy.

Discussion continued around various topics:

the idea that this is a “mandate” is questionable, and,
this is a faculty governance issue and there is faculty resistance.

Many suggestions were discussed on how to express faculty concerns and how to find out who is requiring the college to do external review and why , e.g., Invite Dr. Bitterbaum to the next A&S Chairs' meeting; have a small group of the chairs meet with Dr. Bitterbaum.

The chairs voted on forming a delegation from the Arts and Sciences Chairs' Council for the purposes of discussing with President Bitterbaum their concerns about the external review process and inviting President Bitterbaum to the next chairs' council.

(Delegation: David Miller, Thomas Pasquarello and Kathryn Russell)

14 – yes, 0 – No – Motion Carried

L. Ashley also informed the chairs that the Faculty Affairs Committee is requesting/discussing changes to Handbook – e.g., solicited materials not being shared with the candidate. After lengthy discussion, it was agreed that Faculty Senate should review this very closely and act cautiously.

Finally, a proposal was suggested to make a statement from the A&S Chairs to be read at the Faculty Senate meeting tomorrow: (K. Alwes, D. Miller, and M. King will be at that meeting).

The Arts and Sciences Chair's Council asks the Faculty Senate to postpone developing procedures for external review until the Joint Chairs' Council can discuss it.

Approved - 14- yes, 1- no

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome O'Callaghan