

General Faculty Meeting

February 24, 2016

A General Meeting of the Faculty was held on February 24, 2016 in the Dolan Science Center Auditorium and began at 2:04 pm.

The following members of Faculty Council were in attendance: Barbara D'Ambrosia (chair), Mindy Peden (vice chair), Gerry Guest (secretary), Scott Allen, Medora Barnes, Mary Beadle, Emily Butler, Larry Cima, Gwen Compton-Engle, Roy Day, Jeff Dyck, Tina Facca-Miess, Jean Feerick, Brendan Foreman, Nathan Gehlert, Sharon Kaye, Dan Kilbride, Annie Moses, Elizabeth Stiles, Peifang Tian, Mariah Webinger, and Tom Zlatoper.

The following members were absent: Dwight Hahn and Nancy Taylor.

The exact attendance of the meeting was not taken but clearly exceeded the necessary quorum of 39.

The agenda for the meeting was distributed in advance via email.

Minutes

I. Announcements

A. Minutes from the January 27, 2016, Faculty Meeting are posted at <http://faculty.icu.edu/facultycouncil/>. With no changes offered, the minutes were taken as approved.

B. Board of Directors Meeting: Tuesday-Wednesday, March 8-9

C. Next Faculty Council meeting: Wednesday, March 16

D. Next General Faculty meeting: Wednesday, March 30

E. The University Committee on Collaborative Governance (Jeanne Colleran, Barbara D'Ambrosia, Tom Longin, Dave Short) is meeting on campus today. They are also meeting with the Faculty Handbook Committee and the Faculty Council.

II. Possible changes to summer registration procedures for new students. Discussion led by Maryclaire Moroney (Assistant Provost for Academic Advising) and Marty Hendren (University Registrar).

Moroney outlined the factors that have motivated a restructuring of summer registration for new students. It has proven difficult to enroll freshman who register during the second half of the summer. Also the new core curriculum has created new challenges. We need to

be able to fit students into core classes as well as classes for their prospective majors. The First in the World grant is now an additional factor. In response to these challenges a discussion was begun in Provost's Council about changing the registration process for new students.

Our next class of new students will be divided up into Blue and Gold cohorts (part of the First in the World grant). The Gold students will be receiving the linked learning intervention (Blues will have more flexibility in registration). This linking will involve three core courses (EN 125, CO 125, TRS 101) as well as gateway courses for the business school and biology (EC 201 and BL 155, respectively).

Moroney requested that departments create some guidelines for prospective majors in their areas. This would be an articulation of priorities for students when choosing courses.

Beginning May 10 of this year, new students will be able to choose their orientation session. It is at that point that they will designate a potential major. By late May/early June students will be pre-registered into clusters. When students arrive on campus for new student orientation, they will complete course registration.

During the Q&A there was some concern about flexibility. Would undecided freshmen be allowed to explore course offerings or would they be slotted into specific courses? Would a strong incoming science student be allowed to take multiple sciences in his/her first semester?

III. Possible handbook amendment to change the way prior service is applied for tenure-track faculty. Discussion led by Tom Zlatoper, chair, Committee on Rank, Tenure, and Promotion.

Zlatoper noted that under our current system years served at JCU as a full-time visitor and equivalent years at other institutions counted as part of a tenure-track faculty member's probationary period. In October 2012, an official interpretation of the Faculty Handbook affirmed this policy. In April 2015, RTP asked for a reconsideration of the question and the interpretation remained unchanged.

An alternative to this policy would be to allow incoming tenure-track faculty to negotiate the length of the probationary period. In order to do this, we would have to amend the Faculty Handbook. A discussion last semester, held on Canvas, drew responses from 15 individuals, the majority of whom supported the change. The CMLC departmental tenure committee also wrote a letter in support of the change.

Zlatoper outlined factors that support making the change (visitors teach more, aren't able to set up their own labs, don't have access to the same resources, are probably on the job market, etc.). On the other hand, a change would contradict the 1940 statement on principles of academic freedom and tenure; it has also been suggested that reducing the teaching load of full-time visitors would be an alternative strategy.

Because a majority vote of the faculty is not easily achieved, Zlatoper asked if RTP should pursue such a change. He also asked for suggestions as to how to word such a change to the Faculty Handbook.

Mindy Peden and Sheila McGinn noted that there have been inconsistencies in the past with regard to this issue. Roy Day suggested that RTP could examine how this issue is addressed by other universities and by the AAUP. Elizabeth Stiles asked how many faculty are affected by this issue. Margaret Farrar replied that many are.

D'Ambrosia interceded, noting that many details need to be worked out and that there are questions to be answered. The key question today is whether this is worth the effort to pursue. A straw poll was taken among the faculty present. Only one faculty member voted against RTP's continued work on this issue.

IV. Confidential voting at general faculty meetings. Discussion led by Roy Day, chair, Elections Committee.

Day reported that the Elections Committee has been examining this issue in light of the notion that public voting might be intimidating for some (e.g., junior faculty). One option is to vote using a smart phone app. We could get loaner devices for people without a smart phone and appropriate device.

Sheila McGinn and Bob Kolesar voiced opposition to such a change, arguing that people shouldn't feel intimidated about voting openly. Others (Angie Jones, Elizabeth Stiles, Karen Gygli) voiced support for anonymous voting.

V. New Business – none

VI. Adjourn – the meeting was adjourned at 3:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerry Guest
Faculty Council Secretary