

Faculty Council Meeting  
February 8, 2017  
Mackin Room, Grasselli Library

The following Faculty Council Members were in attendance: Barbara D'Ambrosia (chair), Jean Feerick (vice chair), Brendan Foreman (secretary), Mary Beadle, William Bockanic, Emily Butler, Mina Chercourt, Larry Cima, Roy Day, Gwen Compton-Engle, Kristen Ernhardt, Simon Fitzpatrick, Marcus Gallo, Nathan Gehlert, Rick Greci, Julia Karolle-Berg, Dan Kilbride, Mike Martin, Annie Moses, Nancy Taylor, Peifang Tian, Mariah Webinger, Tom Zlatoper.

Medora Barnes and David Shutkin were absent.

The agenda for the meeting was distributed in advance as well as all other needed material. The meeting began at 2:04pm.

Minutes:

1. Quorum reached at 2:04pm
2. Chair's Announcements
  - a. Minutes of January 18<sup>th</sup> Faculty Council meeting were approved.
  - b. On Feb. 15, there will be a special faculty meeting about the integrative core. Peter Kvidera will have materials for faculty previous to the meeting.
  - c. There will be a general faculty meeting in two weeks.
  - d. On March 1, there will be a Community Forum giving an update on university finances
3. Report from Provost council
  - a. The Provost Council discussed the rationale for restructuring university governance
  - b. This was fairly well the same information that was given to the general faculty later the same day as the Provost Council meeting.
4. Discussion of administrative review of course syllabi
  - a. This discussion was prompted by several emails from faculty regarding the increasing number of "mandates" from administration about what goes into syllabi
    - o Questions about academic freedom & contract issues had been raised.
  - b. Deans Farrar and Miciak are present to answer questions
    - o CAS Dean:
      - came in as dean and didn't want to have faculty turn them in

- But then was told that some syllabi did not have learning outcomes and cross-referencing to assessment and so she agreed that this would be a good idea
- From there, the chairs have increased the amount of things they are individually checking
- She suggested: roll it back to the faculty, have a checklist of what needs to be in the syllabus, check only the part-time faculty syllabus
- Feels that the collecting of syllabi should be at the departmental level, not at the college level
- Boler Dean:
  - Talked with the Boler chairs – it boils down to rules vs. principles
  - The faculty seem to generally know what goes into each syllabus, e.g., learning goals and outcomes,
- After much discussion, it was suggested that all of the specific, needed policies for syllabi should be maintained on a website that can be referred to in each syllabus

#### 5. Discussion on the proposal for University Committee Structure

- a. The Chair asked Faculty Council for feedback on this. She herself expressed that she liked it a lot. It would help streamline the process of proposing new programs. The currently-named CAPP committee would be comprised of most of the people that faculty currently have to contact individually for letters of support for the proposed program. She also liked the fact that all of the Big Committees would have faculty, staff and student reps on them. And that we would be more intentional regarding reporting and communication.
- b. The Vice Chair expressed concerns that this superstructure might develop into a top-down approach to decision-making and that it might leave the FC Committees without much power. The Chair said that it wouldn't affect those committees much – however, the new supercommittees might take care of some of the things that faculty have been becoming more and more involved in, meaning that we might be able to scale back some of the FC committees.
- c. Other concerns given were:
  - i. It does quite address directly collaborative university governance.
  - ii. There is no formal assessment of the overall effectiveness of this new structure put forward. It needs to be evaluated 2-3 years after its implementation.
  - iii. Someone still needs to go through the various medium- to low-level committees and see where each one will end up in the new structure.

#### 6. CAP – Peifang Tian

a. CAP met with Peter Kvidera and will be setting up open hearings regarding the new proposal for the Integrated Core. The CAP response to this proposal is imminent.

7. Compensation Committee - Mike Martin

- a. The Committee is still waiting for an analysis of faculty salaries from the Provost
- b. The Committee is also working on new faculty evaluations.

8. After a discussion of what should be on the agenda for the February 22<sup>nd</sup> General Faculty Meeting, the Faculty Council meeting adjourned at 3:06pm.

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