

Faculty Senate Meeting

November 11, 2008

Minutes

Members Present: Agud, Diane; Akers, Mike; Arthur, Sean; Bell, Martha Ann; Boyd, Heather; Centeno, Virgilio; Clements, Terry; Collier, Jim; Cothorn, Richard; Dahlgren, Linda; Easterling, Sam Fox, Thomas; Freeman, Larry; Glasson, George; Gracanin, Denis; Grange, Robert; Grisso, Bobby; Grossman, Larry; Jarrott, Shannon; Jelesko, John; Jensen, Roderick; Jones, Jeryl; Karpanty, Sarah; Klein, Brad; Larson, Timothy; Long, Gary; Mann, Jeff; Martin, Steve; Martin, Tom; Maycock, Michelle; Morris, John; Moseley-Christian, Michelle; Moyo, Leslie; Nachlas, Joel; Nelson, Doug; Odendaal, Hardus; Ott, Walter; Paretto, Marie; Pencek, Bruce; Pfeiffer, Doug; Ponder, Monica; Redican, Kerry; Satterwhite, Emily; Shadle, Brett; Shingles, Rick; Shoemaker, Donald; Smith, Deborah; Tabitha, James; Teulon, Fabrice; Tokuhisa, Jim; Vance, Eric; Wasserman, Lewis; Wood, Cynthia

1. President Hardus Odendaal opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.
2. Minutes from the October 14th meeting were approved with one minor correction.
3. Hardus provided the Faculty Senate with a (comprehensive) update on the budget. The key points made in the presentation are as follows:
 - A. The 5% reversion in General Fund Allocations for 2008-2009 was absorbed centrally and 1.5% permanent reductions were distributed to university units (college dean or vice president);
 - B. In expectation of another 5-10% for 2009-2010 the units were asked to prepare plans of 3% and 5% cuts by December 1, 2008;
 - C. All indication is that the state's revenue shortfall is worsening;
 - D. Salary raises originally scheduled for November 2008 have been deferred to July 2009;
 - E. There is growing concern that the next round of permanent budget cuts for 2009-2010 will exceed 10%;
 - F. The impact of budget cuts on academic departments across the university has already been severe;
 - G. Faculty are concerned about the impact on quality of instruction and their ability to do their job. Faculty hiring lines (FTEs) for many departments have been lost. Less operating dollars are resulting in limited conference travel, telephone use, and photocopying. In addition, class sizes are getting bigger.
 - H. Central administration, thus far, has stated that alternative severance options (ASO) are not being considered for implementation.
 - I. The budget cuts have had a more severe impact on academic units than other units in the university. This statement was supported by a graph that showed the impact of a budget cut on an academic department versus a non-academic unit. Academic units had little flexibility in their budget so any departmental budget cuts are mostly focused on operating dollars.
4. Faculty senators shared what they have heard from their department heads/chairs and/or dean regarding the budget cuts. It was clear that at this point not much was known and that the budget picture will be clearer in December.
5. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.