

Faculty Senate Minutes
December 11th, 2012
Pamplin 32

Attendees: A.L. Abbott, D. Agud, M. Akers, G. Amacher, N. Arav, G. Back, O. Balci, V. Centeno, L. Cooper, A. Ellis, C. Eska, J. Floyd, R. Goss, B. Hausman, C. Heatwole, S. Hein, R. Hirsh, W. Hopkins, K. Hosig, T. James, S. Karpanty, B. Klein, I. Lazar, J. Lo, G. Luttrell, S. Martin, M. Maycock, N. McGehee, J. Merola, M. Moehler, K. Niewolny, M. Patil, B. Pencek, A. Puckett, H. Quesada Pineda, W. Reed, S. Rinehart, K. Rojiani, D. Smith, C. Stovall, E. Vance, B. Vinatzer, B. Vogelaar, A. Zajac

Absent with prior notice: C. Noirot, Y. Stivachtis,

The President of Faculty Senate, Karpanty called the meeting to order at 5:15pm.

I. *Introductions*

II. *Approval of Agenda and Minutes from November 2012*

Approved

III. *Question and Answer Session with BOV Rector Mike Quillen*

BOV Rector Mike Quillen indicated that he has met with many folks across the university to explain the role of the Board of Visitors. He believes Faculty and Students are the keys to a functioning university –its heart and soul. Based on his experience, People and Money are the most important, and most challenging, aspects of running an organization and it needs to be balanced. Some, but not all, of the issues that he is focused on this year include:

- Faculty salaries are low and have to be dealt with.
- We run a city. We cannot underestimate how difficult it is to grow without significant investment in infrastructure
- Ways to improve delivery of our mission year-round, and using technology and online learning tools

Some other issues raised by the faculty and discussed with the Rector were:

1. Even though garnering extramural funding is high priority for both faculty and administration, faculty are very concerned that overhead rates are increasing (and very high compared to peer institutions) and are accompanied by perceived lower service from controller's office, in particular. Businesses want to work with the University, but if price is high then other ways are found. The overhead level is such that even faculty getting funding are unable to pay their own summer salaries.

Presently, without research we cannot balance the budget. In the long term our endowment will help.

2. Faculty salaries are stagnant but buildings go up all the time. The budget is different for capital and salaries - in fact some salaries controlled by state while others by the BoV. Salary not increasing and cost of living (especially real estate) is increasing. No tuition remission to our own students. Concern whether we can hire new folks with low salaries compared to our peers; will we get our top choices?
3. We need additional resources to address quality concerns with initiatives to expand delivery of online education programs. We need to realize that classroom experience is our best product.
4. Strong perception that there has been increase in administrative personnel, despite relatively flat faculty numbers. Expressed desire to hear, in understandable terms, justification for new administrative positions, how operating budgets are determined and allocated to departments. Concerns that many/most departments do not have adequate operating budgets.
5. BoV does not make dramatic changes, it focuses on strategic decisions and financial stuff. Otherwise it is mostly administration and shared governance. Sometimes BoV has to make big decisions with not much background. FS should track money from source to expenditure. There should be more oversight on the institutes and the money to/from them.

IV. *Open discussion of any items related to Commissions and Committees*

- Please see the Forum on our Scholar page. I will ask that Commission and Committee Chairs, or Faculty representatives, provide updates either directly to this Forum or through me to this Forum
- Agenda items for Spring 2013—Expansion of graduate program in line with strategic plan, continue discussion of next steps for distance learning, discussion of overhead rates with VP Walters, operating budget allocation with D. Shelton

V. *New Business*

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.