

Faculty Senate Minutes
Sept. 11th, 2012
Pamplin 32

Attendees: A.L. Abbott, T. Abel, D. Agud, M. Akers, M. Cassera, C. B. Cloyd, L. Cooper, R. Cothren, A. Ellis, C. Eska, J. Floyd, R. Goss, B. Hausman, T. James, B. Jones, S. Karpanty, B. Klein, G. Long, S. Markham, M. Maycock, N. McGehee, J. Merola, M. Moehler, K. Niewolny, C. Noirot, M. Patil, B. Pencek, A. Puckett, H. Quesada Pineda, W. Reed, S. Rinehart, D. Smith, Y. Stivachtis, E. Vance, B. Vinatzer,

Absent with prior notice: G. Luttrell, J. Settlage

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

I. *Introductions*

II. *Approval of Agenda*
Approved

III. *Introduction of Officers:* Karpanty, Merola, Patil

Karpanty discussed the role of Faculty Senate (FS) in University Governance. FS was instrumental last year in helping resolve issues related to the plan to build an athletics facility in Stadium Woods as well as the plan to build the Multi-Modal Transit Facility. Please see priorities for this year as outlined in the powerpoint posted on our Scholar site. Our priorities will align with those outlined by President Steger at the recent Sept. BOV meeting. Specifically, we seek to address the following during the 2012-2013 academic year.

- Strategy and Next Steps for Distance Learning-Undergraduate (October)
- November: CLE or Best practices, ways forward with Co-ops, Internships, Undergraduate research (November: Wubah)
- December: Implementation of global strategy from long-range plan (December)
- Continuing and Spring Agenda Items:
 - Long range plan implementation and bench marks (Provost's Office)
 - Growing graduate programs
 - Remain engaged in Stadium Woods planning, MMTF, Classroom Building
 - Investment in high-performance computing as one step towards growing/diversifying research portfolio

IV. *Board of Visitors Report* – Karpanty

Karpanty presented from slides (attached).

- BoV respects and like to hear from Faculty.
- Long range plan - now at college level and then will go to provost for metrics and resource allocation.
- Summer academy to help struggling students cope with 6 credit hours and intense advising during 2nd summer. Dr. Wubah's office deals with it.

- President Steger has set priorities for the coming year which the FS should proactively try to give input on including:
 - Distance Learning
 - Co-op, Internship
 - Global Strategy
 - High-performance computing

V. *Priorities for 2012-2013*

There was a spirited discussion on FS priorities for the year.

Distance Learning: A planning group has been setup to get into details to implement long range plan. FS should invite Wubah. The format should be such that the planning group report should be available to FS beforehand, a 15 minute presentation will be scheduled in FS, followed by question/answer. Some time should be reserved for FS discussion after Wubah leaves.

Some questions asked were: What is the broad objective. More students? Cost savings? Karpanty mentioned that we are not trying to have a complete curriculum. Is this for summer? It was mentioned that in industry, distance learning is very good for information-focused lectures. Is a course approved separately for online and on-campus? Transcript does not specifying online/on-campus. Also, faculty have gut feeling but do not have access to good research on the topic of distance learning. Is there a concern that VT would lose students to online courses/universities. Is it to have more students without having more in Blacksburg.

FS needs to look at reasons. Distance learning is typically not cost effective. Enhance educational opportunity maybe? What about lead-up time. There were concerns on Faculty workload issues, especially the 9-month faculty concept when the work is 12-month long.

Pay: Pay was another priority. We are 25% in pay though we want to be 60%. FS needs to be vigilant. It was not clear who we can go to since BoV may not be interested.

It was suggested that we generate data on faculty lost to pay. Get data from Department Heads, may be Deans. How many do not come here because of low salaries? Do low salaries hurt us from recruiting underrepresented groups? The FS officers will talk to President & Provost. For BoV, collecting some nice stories and metaphors would be better.

Administration: Another concern was that VT is hiring too many administrators. Administration say that we are spending 13% on administrative expenses as opposed to the average of 15%. There was concern that we have no way to check the numbers, e.g., 50% administrator/faculty may not show up. Unless we have our own research staff, we cannot do much. Also, there was a concern that we get more work due to more administrators, as administrators have to prove themselves. Constant distraction from university hurts us. This could be a possible spring agenda.

V. *Request to Fill Vacant Governance Positions & Senate Cabinet Positions*

Faculty Senate is advisory and puts members on Commissions and Committees. All resolutions go from commissions to UC but we may not see these if we do not have members there. Representatives should have time to take FS discussions back to Commission. Maybe have Commission members send FS President a list of relevant topics for FS. Scholar is useful resources for sharing information. Some people do not like emails while others prefer emails. There was a discussion on how to do these discussions better, e.g., use of Blogs.

VI. *New/Future Business*

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.