

Faculty Senate Minutes
October 9th, 2012
Pamplin 32

Attendance: Attendees: A.L. Abbott, D. Agud, G. Back, O. Balci, R. Broadwater, M. Cassera, V. Centeno, A. Ellis, C. Eska, R. Goss, B. Hausman, C. Heatwole, S. Hein, T. James, B. Jones, S. Karpanty, B. Klein, I. Lazar, J. Lo G. Long, S. Markham, M. Maycock, J. Merola, M. Moehler, K. Niewolny, C. Noirot, M. Patil, B. Pencek, A. Puckett, W. Reed, K. Rojiani, D. Smith, Y. Stivachtis, B. Vinatzer, J. Wilkins, A. Zajac

Absent with prior notice: S. Rinehart, J. Floyd, J. Settlage

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

I. *Introductions*

II. *Approval of Agenda and Minutes from Sept. 11th 2012*
Approved

III. *Discussion on the 2012-2018 Strategic Plan for Distance Education*

Mr. Peter Macedo, Director, Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning

- The strategic plan is posted at this website, <http://www.distancelearning.vt.edu/>
- Presentation attached. IDDL is under Provost's office, in particular Dr. Wubah, The VP for Undergraduate education, so academic side is in focus. The goal of IDDL is to Advocate - Validate – Empower. More undergraduate students in online courses, but more online graduate courses. Online graduate degrees but no online undergraduate degree (and no plans to add entire degrees).
- There were some questions comparing IDDL to other university systems (OpenCourseWare – MIT) and MOOC¹ (Coursera). VT is different from others and we have to do distance learning our way.
- There were questions on distance learning strategy or lack thereof. IDDL does help faculty and even provide faculty course release to develop courses, but most of this is ad hoc. IDDL has limited resources. IDDL has started a distance learning faculty mentor program. Enterprise fund helps some graduate programs. But revenue sharing is not there otherwise. No funds for strategic plan and thus incentives cannot be provided.
- There were questions on what is the end goal of distance learning for VT?
 - Global university? - world is our campus
 - Make money?

¹ massive open online course

- Summer enrollment, reduced time for graduation, more students with less facilities?
- There is some interest in giving faculty the ability to open-up (to the internet/world) courses that are on Scholar.
- There seems to be a lack of Vision and Leadership. Senior leadership does not know what is happening in different units and we may be at a point strategically that we need to coordinate efforts of different units.

IV. *Request to Fill Vacant Governance Positions*

- Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs – 2-yr term needed (ends in 2014); Meets about once a month, usually 4th Tuesday, 2pm, Oct. 23rd is next meeting.
- Library Committee - 3-yr term, Waiting to hear back on dates and times
 - Godmar Back volunteered
- Transportation and Parking Committee –Faculty representative 3-yr term , Waiting to hear back on dates and times
 - Virgilio Centeno volunteered

V. *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
- Karpanty announced some progress in faculty salary issue based on discussions with Associate Provost Jack Finney.
 - 3% Bonus this year
 - 2% state-wide raise planned next year
 - A memo should be forthcoming regarding the restoration of a merit-based raise process next year
 - There is already an effort in progress by the Council of VA for study on stagnant faculty salaries.

VI. *New Business*

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.