

Faculty Senate Meeting
7-9 PM, Pamplin 32
Tuesday, November 9, 2010

Senators Present: D. Agud, J. Bassett, K. Belanger, F. Charney, J. Chen-Yu, R. Cothren, M. Ellerbrock, M. Hajj, B. Hausman, B. Jones, S. Karpanty, T. Larson, G. Long, T. Martin, M. Maycock, M. McGehee, M. Moseley-Christian, K. Niwolney, M. Patil, B. Pencek, M. Ponder, W. Reed, H. Renard, S. Rinehart, D. Russell, E. Satterwhite, D. Smith, Y. Stivachtis, J. Tokuhisa, E. Vance, B. Vogelaar, J. Watson

AGENDA

1. Introduction

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Ellerbrock at 7:01 PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

3. Faculty Reconciliation Program (FRC)

Ken Eriksson (Chair of FRC) delivered a presentation on the Faculty Reconciliation Program. This program, which is a subset of the Faculty Senate, is available to all Faculty on campus. The purpose of the program is to facilitate conversation amongst faculty members and administrators, and to avoid entering into the formal grievance process, when possible. The committee does not deal with issues of fraud or misuse of funds.

Questions to the speaker were in the areas of P&T and post-tenure review. FRC does not address P&T issues unless the prescribed processes (outlined in the Faculty Handbook) are not followed. The involvement of the committee would only begin after the appropriate college Dean had reviewed the case.

Also, Dr. Eriksson made note of the successful resolution of several cases that involved negative post-tenure reviews. The advice of FRC to the parties involved provided a more amicable pathway for the resolution of conflicts.

4. Diversity

William Lewis, Sr. (VP of Diversity and Inclusion) spoke to the Faculty Senate on issues of diversity on our campus. Dr. Lewis joined VT this semester.

The speaker's talk focused on the priorities that he and his office have identified as necessary for advancing progress in diversity and inclusion at VT. They are: 1) building a high capacity for inclusion and diversity throughout the campus, 2) sustaining these efforts, 3) assessing the impact of the efforts, and 4) enhancing the relationship with the Commonwealth and VT on these issues. He also emphasized the needs of veteran students (active and discharged), in terms of accommodating their needs and working with their schedules.

Questions to the speaker dealt with accommodating students with disabilities. Faculty noted they are often swamped with student requests for SSD accommodations and have little resources within their departments to meet these needs. He responded that office is will look into resources (or lack thereof) of the current SSD center.

4. VT Strategic Plan for the Arts

Ruth Waalkes (Executive Director, Center for the Arts at VT) spoke to the FS about the strategic plan for the Arts at VT. She noted that VT has had an initiative since 2005. Minnis Ridenhour (former Executive Vice

President and Chief Operating Officer) spearheaded this initiative. Waalkes reported VT now has an Arts Policy Advisory Board. The strategic plan is currently being released. The program will have a K-12 link.

Questions to the speaker included possible interactions with Radford University and Hollins College.

5. Faculty Senate President's Report

Mike Ellerbrock briefed the FS on matters he presented to the Board of Visitors at their recent meeting. Issues covered were in the areas of science, technology and communications. His address to the BOV can be found on the Faculty Senate website.

6. Discussion of Items from Last Meeting & Current Business

COE Bubble

The issue of the “freshman bubble” is still of great concern to the FS. Ellerbrock discussed the events that lead to the bubble and pointed out the bubble was the result of too high of an admissions rate for engineering students, as well as a more narrowly targeted group of out-of-state schools.

Nevertheless, the FS discussed the implication of this bubble and the lack of proper policy/exploration of the impact on departments that teach “service courses” for these additional students. While the cost of educating these students should be covered by the additional tuition, it is perceived that sufficient funds are not adequately being directed to the department to cover these additional loads in lectures and labs.

It was the sentiment of the FS that the university erred in allowing a single college to balance its budget shortfalls (from the tuition of additional students) without clearly exploring the impact of this additional instructional load on other colleges.

Parking

The perennial issue of football parking and its impact on weekday classes was discussed. Several Senators and Officers have attending meetings with staff from Parking Services. The meetings yielded some progress in terms of dealing with the perceived pressure on faculty to cancel evening classes.

Parking rates are a continued issue for the FS. The Senators are very concerned about the impact of the current rates on Staff and Wage employees. The issue of a “tiered” parking rate was raised for wage/staff/faculty to address this problem.

CUS dissolution

J. Tokuhisa reported the CUS resolution to dissolve itself failed.

7. Future Business

No future business was brought to the Faculty Senate

8. Adjournment

A motion was made to approve to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed. The Faculty Senate adjourned at 8:58 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Gary L. Long 12/10/10