

Faculty Senate Meeting
7-9 PM, Pamplin 32
Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Senators Present: D. Agud, M. Akew, O. Balci, J. Bassett, B. Benham, T. Burbey, J. Chen-Yu, B. Cloyd, L. Cooper, L. Dalgren, M. Ellerbrock, H. Farrar, J. Floyd, B. Hausman, S. Karpanty, O. Lanz, T. Larson, G. Long, S. Martin, T. Martin, M. Maycock, J. Merola, M. Moseley-Christian, M. Paretti, B. Pencek, W. Reed, H. Renard, M. Roan, J. Setuba, D. Smith, Y. Stivachtis, C. Stovall, J. Tokuhisa, E. Vance, P. Vlachos, M. Vollmer, J. Watson

AGENDA

1. Introduction

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Ellerbrock at 7:00 PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes

G. Long indicated a change in the January Minutes to better reflect the proposed cuts to the ORP program.

A motion was made to approve the January Minutes with the clarification of the ORP cuts. The motion was seconded and passed.

4. Senate Elections for AY 2011-12

M. Ellerbrock has asked department heads to be cognizant of the deadline (March 15) for the election of Senators from their respective departments. He also asked for current Senators to be aware of vacant Commission seats (that should be filled by Faculty Senators).

Within the Senate, Ellerbrock called for the nomination of candidates for the position of Secretary/Treasurer of the Faculty Senate for AY 2011-12. President Ellerbrock reminded the Senate of the discussions from the September Faculty Senate meeting in which the issue of continuity of the Senate Officers was discussed. While the constitution and bylaws do not specifically address the issue of continuance, it has been the practice of the Faculty Senate for many years. A full slate of candidates will be presented at the last Faculty Senate Meeting of the Spring Semester.

5. Unified Communication System

M. Ellerbrock informed the Senate that vendors for the forthcoming Unified Communication System would be showing their products to the university community on February 17. He encouraged all Senators to visit Owens Hall to see the products.

6. COACHE Survey Presentation

Peggy Lane (Director of Advance VT, Ellen Plummer (Provost Office), Jack Finney (Provost's Office)

P. Lane gave the Faculty Senate an overview of the Collaborative Academic Careers In Higher Education (COACHE) Survey. She noted that 69% of the 307 tenure-track Assistant Professors responded to the survey. The link for the presentation is http://www.advance.vt.edu/Measuring_Progress/COACHE/COACHE.html. Lane noted that Virginia Tech ranks in the mid to lower range of our six peers on the issues addressed in COACHE.

A question and answer session followed the presentation. The exchange is summarized below:

Q1. Does the success data on P&T presented on COACHE track the actual success at VT on P&T?

A1. Yes, but not all faculty stay through the seven-year period. Some faculty voluntarily left the university for other employment before being put up for P&T. They are not counted in the current survey.

Q2. What needs to be improved?

A2. (from Jack Finney) Faculty perceive the mentoring process does not work. More effort is needed in this area. To help define the effort, focus groups are planned to illuminate the needs of pre-tenure faculty. This work will not be focused on the training of mentors/mentees. It is to facilitate the mentoring process, as defined in COACHE.

Additionally, the faculty do not have a unified expectations of P&T. While efforts toward promoting transparency in the process have been helpful, it is not the solution to the problem.

A common concern from the Senate on the issue of P&T concerns the promotion to Full Professor. It is considered more problematic by many faculty. Finney agreed, and indicated the large attendance at recent workshops on this matter is reflective of faculty interest in this area.

Q3. Who are our peer schools and how are they chosen?

A3. Finney indicated that we prefer to have as many SCHEV peers as possible, but other schools must also be picked. We have six peer COACHE schools.

A final comment from the Senate concerned the downside of mentoring. The mentor/mentee relationship may make it harder to deny tenure to a candidate.

7. Campus Services for Veterans

Karen Sanders, Associate VP for Academic Support Services

K. Sanders presented an update on the university's effort to better support and accommodate student veterans to the Senate. Her office is currently interviewing veteran students. Sanders told the Senate that VT needs a Veteran's Support Center. She asked the Senate to help with this matter.

8. New/Future Business

Ellerbrock brought the following items to the attention of the Faculty Senate:

- The 2012 University Strategic Plan (USP) is forthcoming. Much help is needed. The web address for the current USP is found at <http://www.provost.vt.edu/usp.php>
- The university will shortly learn of any changes to the ORP and VRS contributions.

9. Adjourn

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the February Meeting of the Faculty Senate. The Senate adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary L. Long 03/12/11