

Faculty Senate 9/13/11

In attendance: Abbott, Agud, Back, Bassett, Broadwater, Burbey, Chen-Yu, Cloyd, Cooper, Cothren, Dalloul, Eick, Ellerbrock, Farrar, Floyd, James, Jones, Karpanty, Larson, Lazar, Long, Markham, S.Martin, T. Martin, McPherson, Merola, Niewolny, Noiro-Maguire, Pencek, Puckett, Reed, Reichard, Renard, Settlage, Smith, Stivachtis, Vance, Vinatzer, Vlachos, Vollmer, Wilkins, Zajac, Zhao, Jarrott

Guest: Jack Finney

1. Orientation for new senators began at 6:30. Mike Ellerbrock and Gary Long led. Where senate sits in faculty governance and what we need to do in terms of communication. About 12 senators in attendance.

2. First regular meeting of 2011-2012 began at 7:00 pm.

A. Welcome and Introductions

B. Approval of Agenda & Minutes

Add Jack Finney to agenda to bring up CFA issue

No minutes from past years are on the web. Talk to Suzie.

C. Jack Finney - Safety & Security Policy Workgroup - informed about the issue of conviction check policy for all new employees on all sides. Expands old policy that only applied to administrative side to all side including T&R

A number of questions were asked and a healthy discussion ensued. Finney was not yet sure of the path this policy would take through governance, if any, and would inform the senate when that was determined.

D. Organization of Senate

vacant senate seats

Academic Support Committee (1 senator) Kathy Hosig

Energy & Sustainability Committee

Robert Broadwater, ECE

Georg Reichard, Myers-Lawson School of

Construction

Commission on University Support (2 positions)

Kathy Hosig

Kathy Hosig affirmed in the positions on the Academic Support Committee and University Support Commission.

Election for E&S Committee perhaps with the 2nd place person filling the 2nd position on the Commission on University Support

Georg Reichard won election for E&S Committee position

Robert Broadwater accepted position on CUS.

Senate Cabinet - each college which is not represented needs to caucus.

Other vacancies: Call for recommendations to fill vacancies.

Committee on Faculty Ethics

Diane Zahm, Urban Affairs & Planning agreed to chair

Committee on Reconciliation

Ken Eriksson, Geosciences, has agreed to chair

Faculty Review Committee

Senate Work Groups Legislative Affairs and for Public Outreach

Faculty Senate of Virginia

We do not propose to fill these vacancies and these may be areas we choose to visit in our self-study of our own governance.

Two vacancies on CFA - people who had conflicts this year with classes and otherwise. Cannot fill until we get resignations from the affected incumbents. Please consider.

E. Governance Reports

Board of Visitors report (Pencek)

Weather was not important. Coverage in CT was not quite accurate. A broad-ranging strategic planning discussion was held. Bruce gave a summary of his talk to the BOV. Issue of gym was raised as well as why are there so many administrators.

Growth on the graduate side will be on the STEM and health sciences area. Propose on how to configure the university to do that. Bruce's interpretation is that Administration of the university would look very different in the future. Discussion followed and Bruce pointed out that Paul Knox will be here next month to discuss the long-range planning activity.

BP reported on meeting with Kathleen Hancock, president of the VT Northern Virginia Faculty Association. Hancock identified two concerns of NoVA faculty, in relation to Blacksburg which might be concerns for faculty based on any extended-campus locations:

- lack of clarity in performance expectations of annual reviews of faculty on research-intensive contracts, even though on tenure-track lines.
- lack of extended-campus faculty representatives (with voice, not necessarily vote) on college-level P&T committees, who could represent the different duties (eg, no undergrad teaching), incentives, and opportunities faculty on those

locations face.

F. Long Range Planning Activity

Sarah Karpanty talked about the activity and the white papers. Open comment on the website. Reshuffled the committees. Needs to have another white paper by the end of this semester. READ White Papers. Make sure people know process is happening. Now is the time to be heard. Contact the co-chairs or Paul Knox. Provost spoke about tenure at the retreat. and doesn't expect any changes.

Discussion - shouldn't try to become a Georgia Tech. We should be a comprehensive university with a strong STEM component. We will not rise without a strong liberal arts school. Please remember BOV approved the performing arts center. Faculty were encouraged to read the white papers and tell their faculty to read them

(Note: While our discussion used the term "white papers" long-range planning TF subcommittees use the term "working papers" on their site

(http://www.longrangeplan.vt.edu/sub_committees/sub_main.html)

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G. Commissions and Committees reports

While we used the language of White Papers, it appears that the long-range planning TF subcommittees use the term "working papers" on their site

(http://www.longrangeplan.vt.edu/sub_committees/sub_main.html)

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H. New Business

Please review faculty senate constitution and bylaws to look for

inconsistencies, errors, omissions or places where it can be improved or streamlined. Joe Merola will lead effort in this area.

I. Future meetings topics/speakers

October: Paul Knox, long-range planning

November: Tyler Walters, Dean of Library

TBD: Nick Stone, deputy director VT-NCR possibly with Kathleen Hancock, Northern Virginia Faculty Association

TBD: Wendell Flinchum, VT Police. Classroom safety

Suggestion - invite President and Provost

Meeting adjourned at 8:59

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph S. Merola
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved October 11, 1011