

Faculty Senate

Minutes from February 14, 2012

Meeting came to order at 7:01 PM

Introduction

Senators introduced themselves. (31 senators in attendance). Amacher, Balci, Bassett, Broadwater, Burbey, Cloyd, Cothren, Dalloul, Ellerbrock, Floyd, Hausman, Jarrott, Jones, Karpanty, Long, Luttrell, Markham, Maycock, McPherson, Noiroot-Maguire, Pencek, Pollio, Quesada-Pineda, Renard, Settlage, Smith, Vance, Vinatzer, Wilkins, Zajac, Zhao

Minutes

Minutes of December and January approved.

Presentation

Relay for Life, Erica Moore

VT has the largest Relay for Life at a college campus.

- Is this effective to ask faculty to be involved (letter that was sent to faculty)?
 - Hausman said no. The letter was not effective and was not persuasive. The Relay for Life staff needs to figure out what would make faculty want to be a part of the Relay.
- How many folks have participated in past Relays?
 - Only one senator had participated.
- How can we get faculty involved?
 - Faculty may be involved already, via social groups, religious organizations, etc. No need to try and get departmental teams and foster competition. Providing “incentives” to the faculty will not promote more involvement.
- What methods can the Relay provide to help faculty gather more participation?
 - Keep it simple and low key.

Officer Reports

Meeting of FSO with administration leaders. Recent meeting with Steger was cancelled due to impending weather conditions. The meeting of the FSO with Drs. Steger and McNamee (few weeks ago) did happen. The President is willing to host reception for the May meeting at the Inn. May change the time for Faculty Senate meetings for next year. The new strategic plan was discussed. Plans for providing tuition relief for faculty children will not go forward (due to costs and the perceptions of inequity between faculty and staff) for VT relies heavily on tuition for operations. Hausman spoke on the recurring arguments (of the naysayers) as they have not changed in 3 decades when this issue of tuition relief for dependent children has been discussed.

Academic Council. Update on recent officer shooting was presented. Finney spoke on campus climate survey (data will be released to senior management in about one month). Long-range planning document was discussed by Knox. Document is to be ready for BOV at June meeting.

Hausman asked about the plan to bring increase double majors/minors and how that would affect CLE. The senators spent time discussing the current CLE classes and how their attenuation would impact department's budgets.

Issues of non-traditional students at the university were discussed.

Google. CNS will change all email to gmail accounts. No faculty input was known to be given in the decision to make the move to Google.

Faculty Senate of VA. Little headway here.

Scholar Site: Data are being entered.

Senate Elections: We are to have reappointed seats and had elections by March 15. Pencek has circulated to FSOs the possible changes. Note: the FS bylaws speak to the issue of seats by FTE, not numbers of faculty.

Reports from Outside

Faculty Affairs Karpanty informed the FS that the CFA is looking into the documents concerning the reappointment/assessment of deans. Discussion ensued on the reaction of CLAHS on working with their Faculty Association on the issue of Dean review. Hausman indicated the CLAHS Faculty Association was not going to pursue the matter. Pencek noted there were anomalies in many of the colleges in this process. Also, the issue of collegiality in the P&T process was discussed by CFA.

Strategic Planning Ellerbrock noted Governor's budget plan is to increase funding to VT and to target the funds toward STEM-H programs. A salary bonus of 3% in 12/12 is planned, but is not probable. Health insurance fees will increase this year. Retirement contributions of faculty may increase (for VRS).

Parking No comments

NCR Faculty Pencek is speaking to the NOVA faculty.

Stadium Woods Karpanty informed the FS that a committee has been formed and will take a walk in the woods this week.

MMTF Long presented an update on the MMTF. The CoS team is working to assemble a listing of critical air/vibration areas. CoS continues to object to the planned placement of the MMTF in front of Derring Hall.

Building Street addresses for departments are still on hold.

University Council

Meeting next week.

Board of Visitor

Pencek asked FS for comments he may air in his address to the BOV in March.

Unfinished Business

FSOs are looking at constitution and bylaws as the university has changed dramatically in the ten years since the documents were written. Issues include: research faculty, clinical faculty, and who does the FS represent.

Can we do a better job of getting information back to the FS? Is there a problem if a Senator is on a Commission, but the Senator's term ends before the Commission term expires?

Adjourn

FS adjourned at 8:54 PM