

CAPITAL COLLEGE FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES
December 3, 2009

Attendees:

Capital College Senators: S. Agili, N. Bayraktar, G. McGuigan, E. Taylor, R. Veder, M. Wilson, and S. Wolpert

University Senator: J. Ruiz

Administrators Present: M. Hanes

Academic Council: O. Ansary, S. Peterson, K. Robinson, S. Schappe, M. Walters

Absent:

J. Harris, R. Luquis, B. Ran, M. Strickland F. Ahmed

Matthew Wilson, Senate President, opened the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

A. Minutes Approval for Faculty Senate Meeting

1. Wilson opened the meeting by requesting a motion to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2009 meeting. Veder requested clarification under section F, paragraph 5. It read "It was discussed that students with a DF (deferred) grade cannot graduate. No one understands why this is an issue." She requested that it read, "there was general agreement with this policy." A motion was made by Sedig/Wolpert to approve the minutes with changes and they were unanimously approved

B. Minutes Approval for Academic Affairs Meeting

1. A motion was made by Veder/Wolpert to approve the minutes which was unanimously approved.

C. Communications to the Senate

None

D. Report of the Senate President

1. Wilson stated that while the process is moving slowly, he plans to have a committee in place by Spring 2010 to address the issue of scheduling. Margo Boman will be one of the co-chairs. He hopes to get the committee appointed before the end of the semester.
2. Wilson posed a question to the senate regarding the bookstore. It seems there may have been a communication problem between faculty placing their book orders. The bookstore claimed that many faculty did not place their orders, when in fact they had. Wilson was wondering if anyone had experienced any problems with the bookstore. No problems were reported.

E. Comments by the Chancellor

1. Hanes reported that the University still has not received its state appropriations, albeit the executive administration has indicated its continued confidence that PSU's share of over \$350 million of the yet-to-be-released appropriations will be forthcoming before the end of the calendar year.

2. The new strategic diversity plans and the diversity plan updates for the various units of the University were due December 1, 2009. The College submitted its update and new plan on time. The new plan will be available on the College's intranet site Friday, December 04, 2009 for review. Hanes credited the work of the DEEC in the preparation and development of the plan and in reporting the final update from the most recent planning cycle. The College had a distinct advantage in developing the reports and documenting progress in that "Diversity" is one of the three major themes of the current College Strategic Plan, including initiatives and related performance measures to monitor progress. The College should be receiving feedback on the update and the new plan over the summer months.
3. The College's Board of Advisers, beginning this year, is holding a series of seminars to showcase the College's programs and units, and faculty and student talent. These seminars are modeled after those held by the University Board of Trustees that are topical in focus and allow for more in-depth exploration and discussion of issues. The standing committees of Board approve the topics and convene the seminars: Student Affairs, Faculty/Research and College Affairs Committees. The first seminar was hosted in September by the Student Affairs Committee on the topic of international experiences. Faculty and students spoke about past trips, as well as representatives from the corporate community (i.e., Hershey Company) who spoke of the importance of recruiting a workforce with international capability to perform effectively in a global work environment. The College Affairs committee held a second seminar in October on the topic of how academic programs are created, including curriculum development, approval processes, and marketing strategies. Faculty and administrators presented two recent case studies: the B.S. in civil engineering and the Ph.D. in American Studies. Students were also invited to talk about why they were attracted to these programs. In January, the Faculty/Research committee will hold a third seminar on the topic of Homeland Security and Terrorism.
Other campus advisory boards have expressed interest in replicating the structure of the Capital College Advisory Board, with special interest in topical seminars. Hanes and the Chair of the Advisory Board have been invited to share the new board structure with other campus advisory boards.
4. The Academic Programs and Administrative Services Core Council –to oversee the implementation of the 2009-2014 University Strategic Plan-- has met twice. The Council was given its charge in November by Provost Erickson. The work of the Council will also be carried out by three subcommittees. Hanes has been asked to serve as chair for the subcommittee on campuses. Provost Erickson will be presenting information about the Council and the three subcommittees to the University Faculty Senate at its January meeting.
5. Hanes wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

F. Comments from the University Council Representative – James Ruiz

1. The business of the council was brief – not many weighty issue on the agenda. The student drinking problem on Main Campus was brought up again and will continue to be addressed.
2. Nominations are being taken for the University Ombudsperson – if anyone is interested
3. Senate elections for the leadership of the senate are coming up in January.
4. The College of Medicine proposed a Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and that was passed by the Senate Council and will go before the full senate on 12/8/09.
5. There were some minor changes to the Standing Rules of the Senate, none of which effect PSH.
6. Report on Student Petitions for Exceptions to the Senate, provides a student with the opportunity to receive consideration on extenuating circumstances affecting his or her

progress. We seem to do well with this issue at PSH; we had 24 petitions submitted, one denied and one that is still pending.

7. Guidelines are coming down regarding faculty textbooks. It does not have anything to do with mandating which textbooks faculty can order. It has to do with the US Higher Education Act, enacted in August 2008. The only place it really impacts is the bookstore. When students purchase books online, there will be two statements, one for World Campus and one for regular campuses stating "Textbooks can be acquired from any number of textbook sellers, if you wish, you can continue to the next page to purchase your books from the Penn State Bookstore."
8. Searches for the Director of the Library are university wide and interviews will be conducted in February and March. Twelve to thirteen interviews are being conducted for the new Chancellor in Erie. Kulkarni was on the committee and the interviews were completed earlier in the week. The finalists will be brought in for further interviews.
9. Ruiz will be addressing the Student Rating of Teaching Effectiveness (SRTE) issue at the next UP Senate meeting. He had four students in one class who plagiarized and is concerned about how those students' reviews will affect the SRTE's. The process to deal with students who plagiarize is long and often painstaking and he would like the process to be recognized outside of the SRTE's. Students who may have plagiarized may provide the faculty member with a poor SRTE and a poor review could be detrimental.

G. Forensic Business

None

H. New Business

1. Wilson wondered why we have the meeting with the School Directors and the Senate. What is the purpose of the joint meeting?
2. Hanes believed that the Senate may have at one time asked questions of the School Directors and there may have been a focused discussion that would have made a more meaningful interaction. Maybe we need to have more preparation for the joint meetings. Peterson remembered having a joint agenda so that there were common items beforehand to be discussed.
3. Admittedly, this has not occurred over the past several years.
4. Ansary stated that sometimes the Academic Council did not want to address issues with only the Senate President, but with the entire Senate body or vice versa.
5. Wilson would like to have the joint meeting scheduled as "tentative." He will discuss with Academic Council if they have any issues they would like to address, if not, they are welcome to come to lunch, but don't necessarily need to be there.
6. Ansary stated that this had become common practice when he was Senate President because before Hanes became Chancellor, there was a lack of communication between the School Directors and the Faculty Senate. This meeting was to bring the group together.
7. When these joint meetings were proposed, the Senate President was also asked to serve on Academic Council (which is now common practice).

I. Unfinished Business

None

J. Legislative Reports

None

K. Advisory/Consultative Reports

None

L. New Legislative Business

None

Miscellaneous

Wolpert addressed issues that were brought to his attention. The first regarded the difficulty faculty members have setting up conference calls. The second issue was parking for people who are coming to campus.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25pm.

Next Faculty Senate Meeting January 21, 2010

Next Faculty Forum February 9, 2010 (International Travel)

Next Joint Faculty Senate and Academic Council Meeting March 23, 2010 (tentative)

/slp