

THE CAPITAL COLLEGE  
MEETING OF THE FACULTY SENATE  
MINUTES  
September 29, 2015

**Attendees:**

*Capital College Senators Present:* E. Delozier, J. Gibbs, J. Hirt, R. Joseph, P. Kavanaugh, B. Ran, G. Ray, K. Sprow-Forté, P. Swan, P. Thompson, S. Yilmaz, R. Young

*Administrators Present:* O. Ansary, M. Kulkarni

*Student Government Representative:* M. Cawley

*Excused:* M. Wilson

Paul Thompson, Faculty Senate President, opened the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

**A. Minutes Approval for Faculty Senate Meeting**

Thompson requested a motion to approve the minutes from the August 27, 2015 meeting. A motion was made by Swan/Yilmaz to approve the minutes and they were unanimously approved.

**B. Minutes Approval for Academic Affairs Meeting**

Thompson requested a motion to approve the minutes from the September 3, 2015 meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee. A motion was made by Ran/Delozier to approve the minutes and they were unanimously approved.

**C. Communications to the Senate**

Members of the University Faculty Senate will be visiting Penn State Harrisburg on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. E-mails have been sent to all faculty, and members are asked to RSVP to the event.

**D. Report of the Senate President**

- A Faculty/Staff Forum, co-sponsored by the Faculty Senate and the Diversity and Educational Equity Committee (DEEC), will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2015. The forum will cover the findings of the Campus Community Assessment. The forum will be in the Science and Technology Building TL 118 beginning at 11:30am. Lunch will be provided.
- Kulkarni noted that people like being at Penn State Harrisburg and generally feel welcome here. However, there are several perceptions that persist that he would like to address.
  - Staff feel that their work is not appreciated. Kulkarni encouraged faculty members to look for ways to improve staff appreciation. Everyone should be valued for the work they perform.
  - Fixed term faculty do not feel that their contributions are being recognized. Ran suggested that a special award be established to recognize fixed term faculty members. However, under the guidelines established for

the Faculty Teaching Award, the award is available to any full time faculty member who has been employed continuously for a minimum of three years. Information about faculty/staff awards can be found at <http://harrisburg.psu.edu/faculty-and-staff/awards/>. Cawley stated that he nominated an adjunct faculty for an award, and that faculty member then received the award.

- The faculty has an outlet to voice their concerns, through the body of the Faculty Senate, however, staff members do not have such a vehicle. Kulkarni would like to create a Staff Advisory Council, to connect the staff with the administration.
- Thompson noted that several committee charges have been updated, following the first meeting of several committees. Athletics will alter their charge regarding modifying practice schedules, as the committee will have no direct influence over practice schedules. The committee plans to hold a seminar on November 11, 2015 with a concussion specialist. The Information Systems, Technology, and Library Committee will look at the number of e-mails sent out the list serve, and will create guidelines as to what can be sent. The Physical Plant will work with M&O on the findings of a recent survey on the Maximo work order system.
- The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary 50 for 50 campaign has begun. Development is looking for 50 new opportunities to give money to the college.
- Further discussion ensued regarding fixed term faculty. Sprow-Forté expressed concern as to the vulnerability of fixed term faculty on year to year contracts. All faculty, whether FT, TT, or Tenured can be at risk of losing their position due to many factors, such as if program numbers deteriorate. Most institutions only keep FT members for three years. At PSU FT members often retire from our college.

#### **E. Comments by the Chancellor**

- ABET is visiting our campus for accreditation of some of our engineering programs.
- A full business meeting of the Board of Advisors will be on Friday, October 2, 2015.
- The state budget impasse is beginning to be felt throughout the Penn State system. Students who receive grants and funding through PHEAA, are not receiving payments. Penn State will continue to honor the grant funding and will not penalize students in any way. The University has asked colleges to set aside a certain amount of money until the budget is passed. The administrative units are absorbing the costs, and academic programs will not be effected.
- Kevin Harter has been named as the college's first professor of practice. As part of President Barron's INVENT Penn State initiative, Harrisburg has developed the "Center for the Next Step." The mission of the center will be to leverage the breadth and depth of the college's expertise and intellectual capital to stimulate new business and economic development in the region. The College of Medicine

and Law School have expressed interest in developing partnerships with the center.

- Enrollment numbers continue to look good. Numbers will be finalized in the second week of October, however, it appears that we have increased approximately 100-150. While our full-time numbers are increasing, we are still dedicated to serving the non-traditional student. We are attracting high quality students, with less than 1% requiring remedial courses. Our transfer enrollment is stable.

**F. Comment from the Student Government Association**

Michael Cawley, President of the Student Government Association updated the Senate.

- The SGA has record involvement this year. Twenty-three students are serving in the Student Senate, with a majority of them being freshman.
- The SGA has identified several initiatives that it would like to work on this academic year.
  - Penn State Harrisburg was named the safest campus in the country, however, the SGA would like to improve upon that. An app was developed at the University of Michigan which promotes safety on campuses. “Companion” allows students to let friends know when they are walking alone on campus, and has options such as to dial 911, an “I feel nervous” option, and GPS tracking. Students must give permission to friends to track their location, and it will not violate privacy. SGA will be meeting with Chief Stoehr to integrate the service with our campus police.
  - Freshman have noted a lack of school spirit on our campus. The SGA would like to begin “Spirit Fridays” and have committed to holding events to increase spirit once a month. They will also be dedicating more funding to Fall Fest and the Spring Luau.
  - The SGA also wishes to improve relations with the Borough of Middletown. Representatives will continue to attend Borough Council meetings.
  - Communication between clubs and organizations is an issue as well. The SGA hopes to build relationships between clubs.

**G. Comments from the University Council Representative**

None

**H. New Business**

None

**I. Unfinished Business**

None

**J. New Legislative Business**

None

**K. Legislative Reports**

None

**L. Forensic Business**

None

**M. Advisory/Consultative Reports**

The minutes from the September 17, 2015 Athletics Committee were available for review. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Swan/Young and they were unanimously approved.

**N. Comments and Recommendations for the Good of the College**

Ansary noted that senators should come to the next meeting with questions for the Academic Council.

Kavanaugh questioned if the community assessment addressed the number of students that sought services from Counseling and Disability Services. Kulkarni noted that such information is not available, due to the privacy of the students.

Ray noted that the ABET accreditation was going well and that the engineering majors are seeing an increase in the number of students.

Swan stated that rumors are around campus regarding the challenges that will be faced in Fall 2016 with the roll out of LionPath, Canvas, and the new scheduling template.

A motion to adjourn was made by Swan/Delozier at 12:47 and was unanimously approved.

The next meeting of the Capital College Faculty Senate and Academic Council will be Tuesday October 20, 2015 in C300 from 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.