Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting
October 6, 2009
Minutes

Present:

Karen M. Turner (Pres.), Paul S. LaFollette (V. Pres.), Joan P. Shapiro (Secy.), Robert M. Aiken (Past-Pres.), Joan Delalic (Engr.), Margaret Devinney (CLA), Michael W. Jackson (STHM), Tricia S. Jones, (Educ.), Charles Jungreis (Med.), Luke Kahlch (BCMD), Stephanie Knopp (Tyl.), Laurie MacPhail (Dent.), Mark C. Rahdert (Law), Roberta Sloan (SCT), David Waldstreicher (Fac. Herald), Cheryl Mack (Coord.)

Absent:

Adam Davey (CHPSW), Jay Sinha (FSBM), Charles Ruchalski (Pharm.)

Call to Order: The meeting began at 1:00 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes:

The Minutes from September 29, 2009, were approved with two amendments.

President’s Report: Karen M. Turner

A discussion concerning a quorum took place.

Guest: Eli Goldblatt

Eli Goldblatt (CLA), Professor of English and Chair of the Committee on Community-Based Learning and Collaboration, came to discuss the Community Learning Network. He gave a power point presentation that highlighted diverse perspectives of this new initiative, supported by Provost Lisa. In his talk, he mentioned the following:

- This initiative includes ways for students to connect to the community and region;
- From the faculty perspective, there is a focus on community-based research, on courses and programs, on student life, on community partnerships, and on the Teaching and Learning Center;
- From the student perspective, student life and leadership, the Philadelphia Experience in General Education, internships, and research, all play a part in the network;
- The need for Temple resources for community partnerships was mentioned;

In the discussion that took place after the power point presentation, Karen Turner raised the issue of a tension that exists between the university and the community, and the need for students to have historical information about this relationship before journeying into the community;

Goldblatt felt that Temple could do a much better job with the Latino community and that the network could be used to encourage Latino students to apply to our institution;

Bob Aiken asked where the group was headed and what the Steering Committee could do to help support it. In response, Goldblatt stated that the group had a very small staff and was in need of more assistance. However, he also mentioned that Novella Keith (Educ.) would be putting out a call
for submissions for a book that would deal with community-based learning and he hoped faculty would answer the call. He indicated that faculty should be encouraged to become involved in the community network through curriculum development, the cultivation of partnerships, and the surveying of current courses. The Faculty Herald will be doing a piece on this initiative and he is very willing to come to one of the monthly meetings of the Representative Faculty Senate as well as to collegial assemblies to make certain that the word gets out about this new undertaking.

**Guest:**

Peter Jones, Vice Provost of Undergraduate Studies visited the steering committee. He was asked to focus on three topics: the Honors Program; Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP); and the Student Feedback Form (SFF).

Turning to the Honors Program, Jones mentioned the following:

- The incredible success of the Honors Program that went from 225 students five years ago to 452 students now. The Program has changed to four years instead of two years and is composed of students who have high GPA’s and SAT scores.

- Two committees provided recommendations for the program and Provost Lisa synthesized the recommendations from the two committees. Many of them are being utilized. Some were short-term and some were long-term ideas. Among those recommendations highlighted, Jones mentioned faculty scholars and a new way to register for courses.

Bob Aiken raised a concern about the infrastructure of the Honors Program. Jones indicated that nothing as yet has been done. However, there is a desire to find faculty to supplement the outstanding daily work of Ruth Ost, who is the Honors Director. Now there are so many more Honors students that there is a need for more help, particularly for the external aspect of the program. Unfortunately, there is a hiring freeze right now, so Peter Jones plans to bring his case to the deans tomorrow and hopes he will get appropriate support.

Apparently, there are two visions for honors courses. One is just a more demanding version of a current course and the other is a unique honors course. Jones feels that there is a need for a mix of both types.

Stephanie Knopp wanted to know if honors students have to finish in four years. Peter Jones said that there is a progress issue. He is hoping that the students will move along more swiftly than they have in the past and not be like Arizona State University where they brought in many merit scholars, but 90% did not complete the program.

Karen Turner wished to find out if there were any guidelines to help a faculty member develop honors courses. Ruth Ost is a resource in this area, she was told. Turner also mentioned that the honors website is not very inviting. She suggested that there be a list of benefits mentioned so that students would be interested in the program.

Paul LaFollette was concerned about the problems many Temple students faced in having to work and wondered if that would affect the retention and graduation rate.

Michael Jackson wanted to know about summer school and asked if honors courses were offered in the summer. Jones indicated that this would be a fine way to go, but providing housing is essential. He would like the Honors Program to do more in the summer.
Roberta Sloan mentioned the working group that focused on the Student Profile in the planning of the Strategic Academic Compass. Peter Jones indicated that many of the suggestions now in place came directly from that working group.

Peter Jones turned to Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) which is the $45 million dollar computer system for the university. He stated that a huge number of people are working on the plan. He explained the various targets indicating that the finance part was done; human resources was next on the drawing board; and the students would be the focus by 2011. He discussed some of the problems including patches for ISIS that might not work on Banner. Jones mentioned a special committee that met every week to make decisions.

Faculty involvement in the ERP was discussed. Jones spoke of ideas emanating from the special committee that would go to the Educational Programs and Policies Committee (EPPC). He also mentioned Town Hall Meetings for the faculty that would occur in the future. Additionally, there is a Blackboard web site and a suggestion box.

Peter Jones then moved to the Student Feedback Form (SFF). There is now an electronic version being tested. The School of Communications and Theater faculty's students (except for those instructors who are pre-tenure), all ROTC students and all freshman seminar students will be trying out the online version. There is already a concern about electronic feedback because when the forms are handed out in class there is around an 85% return rate, while on an electronic version, the return rate is usually around 25%.

Bob Aiken wanted to know how the subcommittees' recommendations from last year were used. Jones said that a number of changes were made and there was a focus on the access of data. However, the suggestion, concerning data for research, has not yet been implemented. Because of this discussion, Jones now plans to provide a one page briefing to indicate how the issues that were raised last year in the subcommittees were resolved or implemented.

Vice President's Report: Paul S. LaFollette

LaFollette is concerned about the lack of faculty for two important committees that require elections. The Personnel Committee has only one person to fill three slots. The Study Leave Committee is in need of faculty. In both of these committees, it is best if the faculty members are tenured. LaFollette asked all of the representatives to find faculty for these committees right away.

Old Business: There was none.

New Business: There was none.

Adjournment: The meeting ended at 3:05 p.m.

Joan P. Shapiro
Secretary