

Faculty Senate Steering Committee
Tuesday, December 3, 2013
Meeting Minutes

Present: Mark Rahdert (Pres.), Tricia Jones (Vice Pres.), Paul LaFollette (Secy.), Joan Shapiro (Past-Pres.), Li Bai (Engr), Kenneth Boberick (DENT), Cheri Carter (SSW), Deborah Howe (SED), Forrest Huffman (FSBM), Michael Jackson (STHM), Stephanie Knopp (Tyl), Jim Korsh (CST), Matthew Miller (TFMA), Steve Newman (Fac. Herald), Robert Reinstein (Law), Michael Sachs (CHP), Catherine Schifter (Educ), Joseph Schwartz (CLA), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD), Karen M. Turner (SMC), Matthew Miller (TFMA), Cheryl Mack (Coord.)

Absent: Michael Jacobs (Pharm), Chip Jungreis (TUSM)

President's report:

President Rahdert announced that the first three deans to be evaluated will be the Dean of the Law School, Dean of Dentistry, and the Dean of TUJ. We were asked to provide names of potential faculty participants in these evaluations. Rahdert has forwarded this request to CATA.

Each committee (except for TUJ) will have four faculty members, one from inside the college, and 3 from outside.

Rahdert encouraged us to encourage our colleagues to attend the December University Senate meeting. It was suggested that we individually invite representative senators.

Vice President's report:

Vice President Jones thanked all those who responded to her recent requests. She will be sending out names of potential committee members to the FSSC for e-approval.

Guests:

Mike Sitler made a presentation about the current status of online and distance education. A series of guiding principles has been developed.

- All programs must be of high quality and enhance Temple's reputation.
- Two goals are to attract new students and improve time to graduation.
- Provide necessary services such as counseling and advising.
- Present a common image for what we present on line.

New infrastructures will be created to achieve these goals:

- The Office of Online and Distance Education will
 - Aid program and curriculum design
 - Manage marketing agreements
 - Be responsible for assuring student support
 - Set policies and standards
 - Assure compliance with Middle States requirements

- The Teaching and Learning Center will continue its current functions and contribute to faculty understanding of distance learning
- The same is true of Instructional Support

TLC and Instructional Support already exist. They are preparing to search for an experienced person to head the Office of Online and Distance Education.

A member of the FSSC asked where Dominique Kliger would fit in.
 Answer: Everyone will still have a job.

Further questions:

Q: Where did this new document come from?

A: A Provostial task force.

Q: If you have never taught an online course, you have no idea how much work it is. We should have our experienced people at the table.

A: He agrees

Q: People with hybrid experience should be at the table as well. How does our work interface with the consortium?

A: At the moment, we are observers in the consortium, so our courses will not be available to other consortium members.

Q: Who owns online materials developed?

A: Intellectual property issues have not been decided.

Q: In a visual arts program like Tyler, there are serious issues of ADA compliance. It is impossible to do an online critique of visual works consistent with ADA requirements.

A: We will look into this.

An FSSC member responded that the ADA committee looks at all requests for exceptions.

We were next joined by Provost Dai.

The Provost announced a new initiative to improve 4 year graduation rates named Fly in Four. Currently, our 4 year graduation rate is 43%. Our 6 year rate is 69%. The national average 6 year rate is 51%.

The Provost would like to organize ourselves to minimize barriers to graduation. This begins with providing to each student on arrival at Temple with a critical path to four year graduation. There are several things that make such a path difficult:

- Such a path may be difficult if there are too many pre-requisites, e.g. requiring a B in pre-requisite courses
- Off matrix courses contribute to delayed graduation
- Increasing the frequency of offerings of required courses can help.

An FSSC member commented that:

- That students can register without seeing an advisor can often seriously slow down their progress
- Some schools with space problems may use a “B in pre-requisite” rule to limit upper level enrollments
- Tyler hires 50 adjuncts who can only teach after 6:00 PM

The Provost continued:

Students will need to “buy in” to this program. They must agree to meet an advisor once per semester and not to work more than 20 hours/week. He then discussed several possible incentives.

- A student who agrees to the program is unable to find room in a required class, agree that there will be no tuition after the fourth year if it is the University’s fault.
- If the student makes adequate progress each year in terms of credit hours completed, there would be no tuition increase for that student.

Questions remain. Should this program be available only to in-state students, or to all, or to only those on Pell grants?

Q: What happens if a student changes major?

A: Changing major and study abroad both increase time to graduation. We may need a different path for study abroad. For change in major, a new critical path would be provided.

Comment: There are legitimate reasons to choose not to graduate in four years. We need to figure out what those reasons are, and we must not create circumstances where people feel they are being punished.

Q: What about transfer students?

A: Not included in this program. Only fall entering students would be considered.

Comment: It is philosophically unacceptable to prevent a student from graduating in 4 years who otherwise would be able to. It would be better to find a seat for them.

Q: How many students know their major when they enter college?

A: It is still possible to declare a major during the second year.

Q: The 20 hour work limit could cause a further shift toward affluent students.

A: 70% of our students work. This is a first step.

Comment: This plan may not work well for non-traditional students. Also, how will it affect women, single parents, and minorities?

Comment: No matter what we do, some students will not graduate in 4 years. Maybe we should be concentrating on 5 years.

Q: The SFF's for NTT's are likely to suffer.

A: We need to find other measures to go along with SFF's. Also the Provost has instructed deans that at least 50% of NTT's are to receive multi-year contracts.

Q: University, collegial, and departmental advising are not always consistent. How can we improve this?

A: Our advisors need more training. Some colleges may be asked to change their procedures.

Our final guests were Eileen Bradley and Monica Hankins from Campus Safety.

They reported that the crime rate on campus has been down over the past few years. Changes have been under consideration for some time. Anderson-Gladfelter has 67 doors. The security at the Tech center is a better model.

We were told that there is a walking escort program from 5 PM to 7 AM 7 days a week. Also escort service from the Tech Center to their door for students.

Q: Who is responsible for building security?

A: Everybody

An FSSC member described an incident at Ambler. Our guests agreed to look into it.

Q: Could we establish bike lanes on campus?

A: This is in the works.

Q: What area do the walking escorts cover?

A: 9th to 16th street and Oxford to Dauphin.

Q: How about a smart phone app for dialing 1234/?

A: Good idea

Q: Are our CCTV cameras "intelligent?"

A: No, but we have trained monitors.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned.

Paul S. LaFollette, Jr. Secretary