

Representative Faculty Senate Meeting
January 27, 2014
Revised Minutes
(attendance included)

Attendance:

Representative senators and officers: 36
Ex-officios: 1
Faculty, administrators, and guests: 15

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:50 PM

Approval of Minutes:

(November 7, 2013 minutes to be presented at the February 18, 2014 meeting.)

President's Report

President Rahdert welcomed us to the first meeting of the semester. The Vice President's report will be incorporated into his report. It consists of the three words "elections, elections, elections."

We are already in the process to begin to structure the Senate elections in late March. We need to create a timeline and create a nominating committee. Rahdert asks all of us to consider what elected committees or officer positions we might want encourage our colleagues to run for. The Senate could use some new blood. We need to create a culture of university engagement among our colleagues.

The process for performance review of deans is underway. The first deans to be reviewed will be those from the Law School, the School of Dentistry, and TUJ. The committees are being formed. CATA submitted recommendations for faculty members of those committees.

Several items are up for engagement this semester:

- International education
- FSSC will be meeting with officers of Student Government
- Seeking ways of better coordination between the FSSC and the Board of Trustees. We have invited the chairman of the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee, Judge McKee, to meet with the FSSC later this term.
- We are about to start a campaign to improve attendance at the Representative Senate meetings.
- We expect further discussions of GenEd and undergraduate programs.
- We will pursue the question of the faculty's role in institutional advancement
- We need to think about the relative roles played by TT, NTT, and Adjunct faculty
- Shared governance and the roles of the Senate and collegial assemblies will be reviewed.

Dialogue with Dai

The Provost began by announcing that we are currently conducting many searches for TT faculty. One faculty member feared that the majority of these searches would be in the sciences. The President asked Provost Dai to let us know that, excluding the School of Medicine, we are doing 90 searches. Of those, the science lines account for 28. The rest are non-science areas.

The Provost outlined the Fly in Four program. This initiative is a response to the President's first commitment from his inauguration. The goal is to increase our four year graduation rate and thus decrease student debt at graduation. The program is well described at

http://admissions.temple.edu/cost-and-aid/fly-in-4?utm_source=web&utm_medium=link&utm_content=newsrelease&utm_campaign=flyinfour

Questions:

Q: What mechanism will be used to resolve disputes about who is at fault if a student requires more than four years to graduate?

A: The design is that we will catch these mistakes early and find ways to resolve it. In order to make this work faculty have to support this initiative and make our delivery of courses more efficient. We will need to simplify pre-requisites. In particular he wants to get rid of courses which demand more than a C- in prerequisite courses. Also we need to pay more attention to the matrix. Experience at other universities is that it is very rare to have to pay for a student's tuition for a fifth year.

Q: STEM majors faced complexity in their first few semester required math and science courses. Typically, the first one of these courses that a student fails will make four year graduation impossible. We need to think about sequencing and offering courses more frequently even if this is discouraged by RCM. There is also a problem with the math department's math placement exam. The SAT math test is a better predictor and should be used.

A: We will take these issues very seriously as we enter into this program.

Q: Agrees with difficulties identified in the biology major. What happens if a student chooses to switch majors?

A: If a student can still be on track to graduate in four years after a change of major, then a new plan for four year graduation will be worked out for them and they can continue to participate. It is generally easier to change major from STEM to liberal arts and stay on track than it is to go the other direction.

Q: Is there a way to use the summer to keep people on track?

A: Yes, summer does not enter into the initial pathway developed, but can be used to give time for repeating courses if necessary.

Q: Do we have statistics on what percentage of students take more than 4 years and students who failed a course in STEM and then changed majors?

Also, is renewal of grant aid dependant on making appropriate progress to graduation each year? And will this new grant aid be at the expense of other existing grant programs?

A: Students will be monitored for appropriate progress, and no existing grants will be affected.

Q: Will we need more advisors to make this plan work?

A: We have been increasing the number of advisors over the past few years, but yes we will need more.

President Rahdert next announced that the university has created a new procedure for schools, colleges, and non-academic units to create their budgets. This used to be an informal process. In light of the move to RCM, the CFO has decided to change this to a process in which each budget unit will make a presentation to a budget committee. This will be a larger committee which will

include people from the Provost's office, the budget unit's office, and a faculty member. There will be many of these committees. One of the jobs of the committee will be to act on requests for discretionary funds from the central fund by evaluating that proposal. We will need faculty for this purpose. Please ask your colleagues to consider volunteering for this.

Presentation by the Athletics Department

Eleanor Myers, LAW, thanked President Rahdert for continuing the tradition of inviting the Athletics Department to address the Senate. Various members of the Athletics Department then gave a presentation about what has been happening with our student athletes. These presentations are well summarized in the PowerPoint handouts provided.

Following the presentations, Professor Turner, SMC, asked that our guests talk about the process by which the decisions to cut certain athletic programs were made and then communicated to the students and other stake holders. This began a dialog between the representatives from the Athletics Department and various members of the Senate about how the balance for the need for confidentiality, the need for transparency in decision making, the need to include faculty advice when the university is making important decisions about matters that impact the academic mission of the university, and the need to take proper care of our students. No real consensus was reached.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM

Paul S. LaFollette, Jr.
Secretary