

Faculty Senate Steering Committee
Tuesday, February 25, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Present: Mark Rahdert (Pres.), Tricia Jones (Vice Pres.), Paul LaFollette (Secy.), Joan Shapiro (Past-Pres.), Li Bai (Engr), Cheri Carter (SSW), Deborah Howe (SED), Michael Jackson (STHM), Michael Jacobs (Pharm), Chip Jungreis (TUSM), Jim Korsh (CST), Matthew Miller (TFMA), Steve Newman (Fac. Herald), Michael Sachs (CHP), Catherine Schifter (Educ), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD), Karen M. Turner (SMC), Matthew Miller (TFMA), Cheryl Mack (Coord.)

Absent: Kenneth Boberick (DENT), Forrest Huffman (FSBM), Stephanie Knopp (Tyl), Robert Reinstein (Law), Joseph Schwartz (CLA)

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes were approved as submitted.

President's Report:

President Rahdert reported that President Theobald will be our guest on March 25 and Karen Clark will join us on April 1.

Cheryl will send out another reminder to the faculty soliciting nominations for officers and elected committee members. We have thus far received no petitions. The elections committee has identified the following as its choices for officer candidates:

- President: Tricia Jones
- Vice President: Charles Jungreis
- Secretary: Deborah Howe

The board has voted to reinstate men's crew and women's rowing. At the board meeting there was actual discussion and opportunity was given for public comment. President Rahdert expressed his appreciation to the Board for listening.

Budget conferences are currently underway. There are two faculty members on each committee who have real ability to participate. These are the committees that make recommendations about the budgets requested by academic and non-academic units.

Q: How is the budget for the Faculty Senate determined?

A: Rahdert will find out.

Q: What are the extra monies controlled by the Provost?

A: There are two central sources of money.

1. The money that comes from taxing schools and colleges. This is used to fund the non-revenue generating units
2. The initiative fund which comes from state funds and is used to support targeted initiatives.

These budget committees do not distinguish where requested new funding may come from.

Rahdert reports that the Senate budget committee will be sending us a resolution for our consideration as to the makeup and function of school and college budget committees.

A discussion arose about the various groups meeting with the state legislators. Why is the Senate never asked to help with these meetings.

One representative suggested that because the budget this year is “stable” (i.e. will not be decreased) perhaps there is less urgency about working with the state.

A: A stable budget essentially represents a 2% cut in the budget.

Another representative pointed out that we are important stakeholders in the state appropriations and we are always forgotten. Also would like to know if students were asked to be involved this year.

It was suggested that we have had Ken Lawrence visit us in the past. Perhaps we should remind him that we would like to participate. Rahdert will talk with Lawrence.

Rahdert next announced that a committee is being formed of students, administrators, and faculty to look further into drafting an honor code. Shapiro and LaFollette volunteered to serve on such a committee.

We have also been asked for volunteers to serve on a committee tasked with developing policy and procedures to deal with the issue of “what it takes to be a center or an institute.”

One member proposed that such a committee should interlock with RPPC, EPPC, and the Senate Budget committee. Another suggested that we need younger members. Perhaps we should first urge younger faculty to volunteer and then approach RPPC, EPPC, and the Budget committee.

Rahdert announced that the Senate had been cc'd on a faculty member's email to the benefits office pointing out to them that for at least some prescriptions, Costco is substantially less expensive than Caremark.

At the request of an FSSC member, Rahdert proposes to send a letter to the various decanal review committees urging that they make broadly based interviews of faculty rather than looking only narrowly for faculty insight.

Rahdert reminded us that at the recent Senate meeting, the biggest item that was brought to the floor was concern about the tenure and promotion process. He asked how we might respond to this.

After a serious and stimulating discussion, the following motion was moved by Sachs and seconded.

Moved:

That the FSSC form an *ad hoc* committee for the purpose of investigating the current policies and procedures surrounding the tenure and promotion process. They are to seek information from such entities as they choose and are to return to this body with a report and recommendations by March 18.

The motion carried.

There was a brief discussion of possible agenda items for the next Senate meeting. Rahdert will invite the Provost for another Dialog with Dai.

One FSSC member reported that during a collegial assembly, the Dean commented that at a Council of Deans' meeting, it was announced that RCM will still not be truly functioning next fiscal year with respect to undergraduate programs. This member wondered if anyone else had heard anything similar. Nobody had.

It was proposed that one agenda item for the Senate meeting might be a report on the status of the Campus Master Plan.

Vice President's Report:

Vice President Jones reported that we still need to find faculty willing to run for elected committees We still need at least:

3 candidates for EPPC

1 for Personnel

2 for RPPC

2 for Honors Oversight

several for UTPAC

A new request for nominees will go out immediately. Time is fleeting.

Comment: EPPC has various criteria as to how many members can be from various schools. This needs to be pointed out in the request.

A: This will be done.

Comment: Often we beat the bushes to find candidates and then they complain that the committees they volunteered for never meet.

A: This is the exception rather than the rule, but we need to make sure all of our committees are meeting. However, there is no stick to use.

Q: Can we, after the election, contact those candidates who were not elected, thank them for running, and offer them other committee jobs that might be of interest to them.

A: We already do that.

Following the Vice President's Report, we discussed a letter drafted by Rahdert directed to the Chairman of the Board and the the President. It deals with the way in which the recent decision to eliminate sports programs was undertaken. After several proposed changes, the following was moved by LaFollette:

Moved, that President Rahdert be authorized to send the letter under discussion to Chairman O'Connor and President Theobald.

The motion carried.

Finally, there was discussion about developing a symposium on faculty diversity. Two groups would like to take the initiative for putting such a forum together for next fall.

Q:Would this take place during a Senate meeting, or would it be at a separate time but sponsored by the Senate.

Most comments favored the latter.

Q: What about the symposium we discussed about the best practices for use of TT, NTT, and adjunct faculty?

A; Rahdert will once again ask for data about the current use of faculty. We might ask Diane Maleson to meet with us to discuss how NTT's may be deployed.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM

Paul S. LaFollette, Jr.

Secretary