

Faculty Senate Steering Committee
Tuesday, March 18, 2014
Meeting Minutes

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

Absent: Kenneth Boberick (DENT), Catherine Schifter (Educ), Robert Reinstein (Law) (On Leave)

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from March 11 meeting were approved as corrected.

President's Report:

President Rahdert will send last meeting's resolution to the President and Provost today.

We will need an FSSC member on the working group that is planning next fall's symposium. Matthew Miller and Michael Jackson agreed to serve.

The President and Vice President will meet with the Provost on March 27.

We need faculty volunteers to go to Harrisburg to meet with legislators. Please contact your constituents and ask anyone interested to contact President Rahdert.

We will meet with President Theobald next Tuesday. Provost Dai will be with us at next Friday's Senate meeting.

Nominating Committee:

Joan Shapiro announced the current state of our ballot. This will be officially sent to the faculty listserv later this week and announced at the Friday Senate meeting. We agreed that as a policy we should continue to notify the listserv as the ballot evolves as a result of nominations by petition.

Vice President's Report:

Vice President Jones announced that we still have many openings on for our elected committees.

Q: What is the workload for UTPAC?

A: Eight to ten cases per year.

There was a brief discussion as to how the ballot should be worded in the cases where there are more openings than those running. Consensus was to say “choose no more than n” where n was the number of candidates for the post so long as n is less than or equal to the number of empty slots.

Guest – Michele Masucci, Interim Sr. Vice Provost for Research and Strategic Initiatives:

The presentation began with a discussion of the organizational chart for Masucci’s organization. She also announced that her office no longer controls about 2.5 million dollars. This means that there is no longer money in her office available to deal with emergency needs.

The IRB is losing people at a time when there is a changing compliance environment coming from Washington. Much of her presentation is well summarized in the PowerPoint handouts which are attached to these minutes as an appendix.

There followed a lengthy discussion about the ways in which the new budgetary system will affect the process of grant administration and administration of startup funds. We need to find the right balance between the deans having final say on all matters of seed money and startup funds, and the central administration taking ownership of certain parts of these processes.

Q: RCM is supposed to be administered at the level of schools and colleges. Does this mean that deans should be expected to let the overhead from grants in some programs underwrite the needs of other programs which may not be as well grant supported? How much information should we expect from our deans about overhead money they may accrue?

The answer to this question sparked a long and fascinating discussion about the meaning of “overhead,” where it comes from, where it goes, and what it can pay for. We also learned that deans and associate deans for research are provided with considerable data about grant activity and overhead recovery, but it is difficult to extend these data to levels of smaller granularity.

The presentation ended with some discussion about the problems involved in staffing the IRB and assuring their prompt response to requests.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 PM

Paul S. LaFollette, Jr

Secretary