

## FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

APRIL 8, 2014 – 3:00 p.m. – ROOM 111 AIME

### APPROVED MINUTES

**ATTENDING:** Steve Miller, Donna Meester, Rona Donahoe, Mangala Krishnamurthy, Clark Midkiff, Margaret Garner, Rainer Schad, John Vincent, Charlotte Herrin, Ed Stephenson, Pat Parmelee, Steve Burch, Joanne Hale, Amy Taylor, Bob Riter.

**ABSENT:** Melondie Carter, Carol Duffy, Jennifer Shoaff.

**GUESTS:** Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

Roll call and quorum check by Faculty Senate Secretary Rona Donahoe.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of March 11, 2014 were approved with one correction.

**President's Report** – (*Steve Miller*) President Miller addressed the faculty/staff meeting reviewing the accomplishments of the Faculty Senate this past year. Among those accomplishments were the following: Sheperd Bend agreement, Karen Steckol regalia project, diversity task force, SGA elections and tobacco free campus issue.

Clark Midkiff, Mangala Krishnamurthy and President Miller met with the Arts & Sciences Information Technology Committee to discuss concerns about technology and communication problems. The plans are to survey the entire faculty about technology needs and research aspirations.

**Vice President's Report** – (*Donna Meester*) No report.

**Secretary's Report** – (*Rona Donahoe*) Work continues on finalizing the new Faculty Senate roster and committee assignments for 2014-15. CCHS will not fill one of three slots and Continuing Studies will not participate.

The Legislative Agenda Committee position will be filled by HEP and Legislative representatives.

**Faculty & Senate Governance** – (*Charlotte Herrin & Amy Taylor*) Dr. Ellen Csikai has been nominated to serve as Ombudsperson. She has requested her term begin the fall of 2014. Dee Goldston has agreed to serve until the fall semester. The Steering Committee agreed to this arrangement and this will be presented to the full Faculty Senate at the April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Research & Service** – (*Steve Burch & Ed Stephenson*) The Research & Service Committee will be meeting with Vice President for Research next week.

**Faculty Life** – (*Carol Duffy & Jennifer Shoaff*) No report.

**Academic Affairs** – (*John Vincent & Patricia Parmelee*) No report.

**Information Technology** – (*Mangala Krishnamurthy & Clark Midkiff*) Faculty members are moving more toward Blackboard, online testing and use of lap tops. The technology survey conducted by Arts & Sciences and survey results has been shared with this committee. The proposal is for the Faculty Senate to conduct the technology survey. One of the issues was addressed in a Crimson White article asking students to decrease their use of wireless which was causing interference with educational activities. This could possibly indicate there is not enough wireless band width on campus. It was suggested to determine where information technology funding is being spent. There is also the problem of technology maintenance being performed during faculty working hours, research data backup and non-working classroom technology systems.

**Legislative Agenda** – (*Margaret Garner*) The proposed age of majority legislation died and will have to be resubmitted. The educational budget was discussed.

**Financial Affairs** – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) The Financial Affairs Committee has expressed concern about the University's bond debt, classroom fee distribution, leveling or decreasing enrollment, funding plans for the future, maintaining faculty/staff benefits and comparing those to other institutions.

**Student Affairs** – (*Melondie Carter & Joanne Hale*) There continues to be great concern about SGA elections. Some issues connected to that include harassment, coercion, fraud, fear and apathy. Among the solutions discussed were communication and dialog among students, a change in the voting procedure, a stirring of students to change, more organizations to actively focus and facilitate appropriate solutions.

It was suggested when a SGA representative attends the Faculty Senate meetings to address a specific question toward them.

The application for students to know what external scholarships are available through a web site has been established. The maintenance of current information is a very important aspect of using this app. The issues put forth for the 2014-15 Student Affairs Committee will be to separate the Undergraduate Student Association from the Graduate Student Association and to address the SGA election process. President Miller will meet with the Election Board.

#### **Reports from Other Committees –**

The Child Care subcommittee of the Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee survey indicates there is a need for child care and pursuit of this benefit should move forward. The search is ongoing for a facility to house the children. The goal would be to serve approximately 148 children. There are specific requirements to be met to serve as a child

care facility. This could be a learning lab for University students with priorities for faculty and staff families.

There will be a new senator orientation at 2:45 P.M. in Room 213 in AIME.

The Steering Committee will meet with Provost Joe Benson on Thursday, April 10 at 3:00 P.M.

Meeting adjourned 4:20 P.M.