Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting  
March 15, 2007  
Manners Room RCB  
1- 3 pm  

Minutes  

Present:  
Peggy Albers, Chip Barksdale, Harry Dangle, Julie Dangle  
Cheryl Delk, Dabney Dixon, Christine Gallant (Guest),  
Lynda Goodfellow, Cece Grindel, Hugh Hudson, Jerry Rackcliffe,  
Tammy Sugarman, Christine Roch, Cheri Thachenkary,  
and Upkar Varshney.  

Call to Order:  

C. Grindel called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.  

Minutes of February 14, 2007  
The minutes of February 14 were unanimously approved.  

Domestic Partnership Insurance:  
P. Albers, a member of the task force, gave a brief synopsis of the  
report which was prepared on this issue.  
This was followed by much discussion on the subject. Some of the  
points raised were:  
♦ the timetable for dissemination and approval;  
♦ confidentiality;  
♦ participants who would benefit from the change.  

C. Gallant provided the necessary clarification regarding the  
committee's concerns. She said that the GSU Senate committee  
will be voting on the issue during its April 19th meeting. Medical  
College of Georgia seems supportive of the proposal and they will  
meet this week to discuss the issue. GA Tech wants to wait until next  
year to discuss the report. UGA is on board and will be voting on the  
issue at the March 27 Senate meeting. She said that once the necessary  
approvals-minus GA Tech's- were obtained she would walk it over to  
Human Resources Department at the BOR. The Committee was asked  
to keep the report confidential until after the Senate Meeting in April.  

C. Thachenkary proposed the motions listed below:  
♦ The title of the report be changed to give a more precise  
  explanation of the kind of benefits and for whom.  
  After some discussion the committee approved the motion that the  
  title be changed to: "Amendment to Expand Insurance  
  Benefits for USG Employees."  
♦ This is an HR issue and as such HR should be the proper channel  
  through which the report should be delivered to the BOR.  
♦ C. Gallant is to obtain clearance from Provost Henry before  
  proceeding with delivery of the report.
The Committee also proposed that proper delivery methods and strategy for all schools involved be explored before walking the report over to the BOR. D. Dixon suggested that since the report has not yet been approved by the other universities listed in it, the names of the other universities should be removed at this time. Consensus was reached in agreement with these suggestions.

The FAC approved the proposal. C. Grindel thanked the task force for all the work and time they put into the proposal.

For the Record:

C. Thackenkary wanted the record to show that he voted for the FAC motion to approve this proposal with some degree of caution as University Senate business and that of the Faculty Affairs Committee is conducted with open communication and dissemination of information.

Criminal Background Checks for University System Employees:

C. Grindel informed the committee that the task force had met and decided to use the Berkeley University policy as a template for the University policy. She said the task force will have a draft policy for the Committee to look at by October. She is in contact with two people at UGA and will keep them informed on the progress.

MARTA Faculty and Staff Subsidy:

C. Grindel reported that D. Miller was going to present this topic to the committee but in his absence it will be deferred to another time.

Family Medical Leave:

C. Grindel informed the committee that she spoke with G. Rainbolt about this issue but he has been quite busy and dealing with some personal issues so has not been able to provide more information. This topic will be revisited next month.

307.06 Limitation on Tenure-Eligible Service:

C. Grindel reported that she had not heard anything from Provost Henry recently but will check with him again in the Fall.

International Doctoral Degree Recognition:

L. Goodfellow, chair of this task force, reported that the task force had met. She passed out copies of a draft policy for doctoral degree verification the members had put together. An amendment to the final paragraph was made. A revised copy will be sent to C. Grindel for circulation to committee members. The committee approved the amended motion. C. Grindel thanked L. Goodfellow and the Task Force for their work on this issue.
Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness:

H. Dangel reported that he had received a response from the Registrar showing response rates and dates students are responding to course evaluations. He handed out copies of these tables containing data from Fall 2005 and Spring 2006. These figures are lower than they were two years ago when the online policy was introduced. There was discussion as to why the drop in numbers.

C. Tachenkary suggested that:
- maybe the email notification to students to fill out the evaluation forms when they request their transcripts should be reintroduced, and,
- the fact evaluations are done on the last day of the semester after final exams might have some influence on student response.

H. Hudson suggested that maybe it's time the University went back to sending the responses back to faculty as soon as they are received rather than wait for the 80% expected as 80% is clearly not being attained. If made available earlier faculty can use student suggestions to refine their courses.

D. Dixon proposed that H. Dangel submit the tables to Provost Henry with a memo suggesting that the Deans/Department Chairs be made aware of the low response rates for the course evaluations. The motion was approved.

Student Identification Committee:

L. Goodfellow informed the FAC that this committee has forwarded their report to the BOR as required. She also said that as of this summer all faculty and staff at GSU will be required to have new numbers for Panther ID cards.

PTI Handbook:

C. Grindel informed the committee that the Executive Committee had a few editorial comments which have been corrected. The FAC has approved the handbook and it will now go to the Senate Committee for approval. She thanked the task force that worked with her on the handbook.

Old Business:

H. Hudson reported that the Governor and Chancellor of the BOR have agreed on the language for the BOR Optional Retirement Plan bill. He will have a copy later.

H. Dangel asked if the Committee for the Faculty Awards had been formed. C. Grindel said that it had.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm.