Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, March 12, 2008,  
1-3 pm, Manners Room, RCB

Minutes

Present: Peggy Albers, Hassan Babaie, Cheryl Delk, Valerie Fennell, Dana Fox (guest), Laura Fredrick, Mary Ann Gaunt, Lynda Goodfellow, Cece Grindel (Chair), Beth Jones, Peter Lindsay, Dave Pavesic, Mike Raderstorf (guest), Wayne Reed, Ruth Sanford, and Marta White.

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

Minutes of 2/14/2008: The minutes of February 14, 2008, were approved.

Diversity Item on Student Evaluation: C. Grindel informed the group that the FAC had been asked by the Cultural Diversity Committee to consider adding an item for diversity to the Student Evaluation. P. Albers who is a member of that committee told the group that the committee is actually looking to add:

i) a statement addressing the treatment of diversity perspectives; and,
ii) a statement addressing the diversity of students.

She handed out a draft of these two statements and asked for the committee's comments and or suggestions.

After discussion, the committee agreed to submit these suggestions to the Cultural Diversity Committee:

i) ● Instructor creates an environment that invites diverse perspectives;
ii) ● Instructor incorporates the unique experiences and backgrounds into the learning experiences;
or
    ● Instructor values and engages the unique experiences that the students bring into the class.

P. Albers will take these suggestions to the committee and bring back comments to the FAC. The FAC will revisit this issue next month.

Update GSU Emergency Management Program: M. Raderstorf, Director of Emergency Management gave an overview of the University's progress in this area. He passed out a slide presentation that detailed his office's agenda. In his report he said that most colleges and departments on campus do have emergency management plans in place but lack a means of communication in the event of an emergency. One of his office's main goals "is to develop programs that will ultimately provide a safer environment for faculty, staff and students at GSU" he said.

A new policy on implementation strategy was prepared by Mr. Raderstorf and approved by the President, Provost and Administrative Council on February 6. The Office of Emergency Management does not have a website as yet but copies can be obtained if interested people call him. He also said that his office is working with the web team to make news available to the GSU community as soon as a crisis occurs.

He said that once this process is finalized, the Emergency Management Plan will become active. The website will provide plans for individual departments as well as communication methods for the entire campus population. The communication process will be completed in approximately 6 months while the web page should be up in eighteen months.

C. Grindel thanked M. Raderstorf for his presentation and his time.
Evaluation Change to Handbook and Student Evaluation of Faculty:

P. Lindsay proposed that the 6th question (Considering all limitations and possibilities of the subject matter and course, how would you rate the overall effectiveness of this instructor?) be removed from the list of questions approved by the FAC, to be made available to the SGA. He handed out a list of 4 rationales for this recommendation. After much discussion C. Grindel asked the committee to indicate by a show of hands their preference for or against deleting this question. The general consensus was for removing the question. Consequently, it was agreed that P. Lindsay and M. White should contact the SGA President to put this issue on the agenda of its next meeting for discussion. P. Lindsay and M. White will also attend this meeting. C. Grindel also asked the members to take this issue to their individual departmental faculty meetings for discussion. With findings from these two avenues the FAC will revisit the issue at its next meeting.

Limitation of Tenure Eligible Service:

D. Fox, from the Advancement of Women, presented to the committee a copy of this revised policy that was prepared by M. Finn and J. Barrett. C. Grindel asked the sub-committee initially assigned to this issue to look at the revised version and incorporate any changes or revisions from the previous one. They will submit their findings to her about a week and half before the next FAC meeting. C. Grindel thanked D. Fox and the subcommittee for working on this issue.

Student Off Campus Housing:

V. Fennel informed the committee that students (international and citizens) at GSU have difficulty find off-campus accommodation. She said that one of the issues stemming from this is student retention. Students are moving to other local universities where they are offered help in finding off-campus housing. This, she said, is because GSU does not have a strong well supported off-campus housing office. During discussion W. Reed, of the Enrollment Management Group Committee reiterated that this topic comes up for discussion frequently and suggested that Dr. Bill Fritz, chair of that committee, be made aware that this issue has been presented to the FAC committee as well. The group agreed to send a recommendation to B. Fritz that designated personnel and resources in the office of housing be dedicated to the coordination of off-campus housing for all students. Also, C. Delk will contact Marylyn Tyus and Dr. Covey regarding this issue. W. Reed will meet with B. Fritz on this issue.

C. Grindel said she would accompany C. Delk if the need arises. All findings will be brought back to the FAC's April meeting.

Update: Amorous Relationships Policy:

This issue was deferred to next month as D. Dabney was absent from today's meeting.

Duty to Report Criminal Charges Policy:

This issue went forward and will be on the next Senate meeting agenda.

Career Ladder for Academic Professionals:

C. Grindel reported that the Task Force for this issue was already drafting a criteria for promotion of academic professionals. It might not be ready this year since this policy will have to be sent to the academic professionals for their comments. It will be ready by Fall 2008.

Updates:

Posting of Maymester Grades - C. Grindel will report on that next month.
Child Care Center – C. Grindel will report on that next month as well.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3 pm.