Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting  
Thursday, April 10, 2008  
1-3 PM, Manners Room, RCB

Minutes

Present: Chip Barksdale, Cathy Brack, Dean Dabney, Cheryl Delk, Laura Fredrick, MaryAnne Gaunt, Cece Grindel, Hugh Hudson, Peter Lindsay, Dave Pavesic, Cherian Thackenkary and Marta White

Guest: Kerry Hayward

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

Minutes of March 14: C. Grindel will send copies of the minutes together with materials for the April 24 meeting. She accidentally left them out of previous correspondence with the group.

Updates:

(i) Criteria for promotion of academic professionals C. Grindel said that the task force was working diligently on this issue. A draft of this issue will be provided for the FAC for consideration in the fall.

(ii) Posting of Maymester grades C. Grindel is in communication with C. Peters regarding this issue. A meeting will be set-up between them soon. She will provide the date for this meeting to the group.

(iii) Off campus Housing Assistance Plans for meeting with B. Fritz to discuss this issue are in the works.

(iv) Child Care Center C. Grindel will meet with the Director, Stacey French-Lee, upon Ms. French-Lee's return next month.

(v) Cultural Diversity item on Student Evaluation Form The Cultural Diversity Committee needs some more time to work on the language of this item and will resubmit it to the FAC committee once it's finalized.

Amorous Relationships Policy: D. Dabney presented the revised proposal of this policy. He said that K. Haywood had also looked at it and made some changes. During discussion, M. Gaunt suggested that an email to faculty giving updates of the policy
changes be circulated periodically. The committee agreed and C. Grindel will contact M. Stone with this suggestion.

The proposal was approved.

C. Grindel thanked D. Dabney and K. Haywood for their work on this proposal.

P. Lindsay gave a summary of the rationale to the proposed change to Section 311.02 of the GSU Faculty Handbook—to strike out item 6.

There was a lot of discussion on this issue. The discussion centered on why the item should be removed and if so what, if anything, should it be replaced with.

P. Lindsay reiterated that the question should be dropped and individual colleges find a replacement question for question 6 if need be. The question is a distraction he said.

M. White believes that the interpretation/use of the question should be changed and not the question. Question 6 is often used by administration as the measure of their effectiveness as a teacher; often its use as an opportunity for growth is not actualized.

H. Hudson proposed the motion that the question be tabled for the fall when there will be more members in attendance so that they too can voice their opinions on this issue.

C. Grindel asked for, by a show of hands, those who were for and against tabling the motion. There were 3 for and 7 against. By a show of hands the motion for the removal of Question 6 from the student evaluation of the course was approved (7 approved the motion; 2 rejected the motion

C. Grindel will inform M. Finn and IS&T of this change.

The committee also agreed to change the wording of the 1st paragraph of Section 311.02.01 in the Faculty Handbook to read: "The Faculty Affairs Committee approved that a report on Student Evaluations from each college be sent to the SGA office in printed or electronic form that will answer the six common questions in the order that the students requested. The five questions
listed below will be included in information provided to the SGA. Each College will identify their own general question relating to faculty performance to be added as the sixth question.

Also that the heading "principle justification" be changed to "principal justification."

This item will now to go the Senate for discussion in the fall. FAC will discuss what the individual colleges might do regarding replacing question 6 in the fall.

Limitation on Tenure-Eligible Service:

M. White read the proposed changes to the group. However, D. Dabney questioned why the changes were been proposed at all when the Provost had already informed FAC that the university was bound by the Board of Regents to follow its guidance.

C. Brack said that the reason was because FAC has to approve changes in the Faculty Handbook.

There was some discussion on this subject.

H. Hudson said that Susan Herbst of SUNY, Albany, passed changes on this issue with the approval of their Board of Regents.

D. Dabney proposed that a copy of SUNY's policy be sent to C. Grindel for forwarding to the Executive Committee as a recommendation for change to the GSU existing policy.

The motion was approved.

C. Grindel thanked the members for their participation during the year and reminded everyone to attend the meeting on April 24 when a new chair will be appointed.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 2:50PM.