

Executive Committee Meeting with Past Presidents

Monday, September 26, 2016

Minutes

Members Present: Michael Keefe, Prasad Dhurjati, Chris Williams, Deni Galileo, Mark Parcells, Bob Opila, Dalas Hoover, Jim Richards, Alan Fox, Amy Johnson

- 1.) The first order of business was Academic Analytics. Faculty are concerned that Academic Analytics may be misused for inaccurately rating faculty. Jim Richard provided the committee with some history of the original intent of Academic Analytics. It was to be used to help conduct Academic Program Reviews (APRs) measure productivity and to eliminate the APR to be used as a grab for resources. After the APR is conducted Institution Research generates a report, which is then given to the Department to use as a template for responding to the outcome of the APR. The Department is then given a year to work on its weaknesses and report back as to what measures it took to respond to the original report. After a year the Department can see if its goals still make sense. It was designed to create a dialog.

It is believed by faculty that administration's goal is to use it to help them become an AAU institution. Also administration used it to select the faculty for the TT Commission noting that that faculty were selected to serve on the commission if they were in the top 100 in Academic Analytics. All faculty have a number and the Provost knows this number. This was not its intent, but is where it's leading because the faculty rating has been built into the software.

The designer of the software will be on campus and the Board of Trustees has invited faculty to attend an open meeting where its designer is presenting and taking questions.

Past Senate President members feel faculty have a right to know how they are being judged.

The Academic Analytics Task Force members will be:

Alan Fox, Chair
John Courtright
Prasad Dhurjati
Dan Rich
Jim Richards

It was a concern that the Provost doesn't have a sense of the history of the intent of Academic Analytics. Nursing faculty were almost entirely service and now they are research faculty without the being trained to do research. They were trained to do the clinical side, and now they are expected to be researchers. Some jobs don't allow faculty to do a lot of research putting them at a disadvantage for being considered for tenure.

Again it was noted that being an AAU institution is driving this. There are reasons to be an AAU institution such as status and having a strong research program. AAU counts research faculty, non-research faculty and faculty productivity. There are two categories of faculty and they don't have to count CT faculty. The Provost no longer accepts promotion on teaching and some are concerned about the outcome and the end result.

There were also discussions about class size needing to be under 20 students. Also, the freshmen first semester in Italy was a result of a false report that came out of Admissions. It doesn't allow the freshman to be a part of the count in the fall.

The conclusion was the fear that it would create two groups of faculty – teaching and research and the teaching faculty would be looked down on. In the early years research faculty had knowledge in teaching, but the new research faculty don't. The bottom line is the new President believes in the AAU.

- 2.) The next item for discussion was the Article 3 task force. It will consist of Amy Johnson, Deni Galileo and Bob Opila. They will review revisions to the Faculty Handbook as introduced by the Provost Office. The Provost can make such changes as long as he goes through the process.
- 3.) The next item was discussions around the Senate Budget. The Senate President wants the Senate Budget to be independent of the Provost Office. The Senate Budget Committee will take this up at their next meeting.
- 4.) Website upgrade – Calvin Keeler's son will be hired to upgrade the senate website. We will need to design the website, and then he will upgrade it. We would like to have a searchable website. It was also discussed that the Senate will print out a pdf of the Faculty Handbook at the end of each year and archive it on the Senate Website.

The meeting ended at 12:00 Noon

Respectfully submitted,
Karren Helsel-Spry