

General Faculty Meeting Minutes

Unofficial (No Quorum)

Friday, November 14, 2014

Tierney Auditorium, Dickason Hall

Attendees: Colin Cavell, Jan Czarnecki, Martha Eborall, Melissa Haye, Geoff Hunter, Sudhakar (Jammy) Jamkhandi, Peggy Johnson, Andrew Kulchar, Thomas LaFone, Angela Lambert, Mike Lilly, Darrel Malamisura, Shelia Sargent-Martin, Norm Mirsky, John Snead, Betsy Steenken, Terene Stiltner, Darrell Thompson, Shelia Hallman-Warner, Tony Woart, Sandy Wynn

I. Call to Order

Since there was no quorum, the meeting proceeded informally.

II. Approval of Minutes from the April and August meetings.

These had been sent out to the all faculty. However, without a quorum, a vote was not taken. Secretary said she would ask full faculty to approve them by electronic (email) vote.

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

A. 15 to Finish – Jan Czarnecki

Summary of state initiative by Secretary. PDF previously emailed to full faculty.

State will be actively promoting this beginning January 2015. Essentially, colleges (including faculty and advisors) are to recommend to students that they take a minimum of 15 credit hours each semester to graduate in four years. Beneficial financially to students, institutions, and taxpayers. Evidence indicates if students take at least 15 credits, they are more apt to stay in college and graduate.

Very few of the schools on campus show an average of at least 15 credits/semester. (Excel sheet printout from Dr. Cravor Jones's office presented.)

Assumption that this is optional – staff is just expected to advise students regarding the benefits. At this point, not tied to federal grants (which require only a minimum of 12 hours), although this may change.

Darrell: College Council presented it as though it would be policy. This is a misallocation of resources.

General Discussion: Response to this on campus has not been positive. Believe it would be harmful financially, particularly if students forced to take 15 credits.

B. Recruitment, Retention, and Financial Impact on Institution, and Morale

General Discussion: Need to understand precisely where the institution stands financially. According to the Noel-Levitz survey, revenues are down \$2 million since 2012. Faculty needs more information. Concern that annual reports haven't been posted on the web page for years. Concern that specific financial information (e.g., balance sheets) are not available. Darrel has filed numerous FOIA requests for information. Review of Faculty Senate meeting earlier in the day when Senators were asked to meet with schools and report back with specific suggestions to improve recruitment and retention. Some suggestions can come from the Noel-Levitz survey. Senators will report back to Faculty Senate, then representatives expect to present a report to the next Board of Governors meeting. Faculty Senate expects to meeting again on Dec. 5. BOG meeting will be Dec. 11. Concern that the BOG has not received the N-L report. Concern that enrollment is down. Only 187 applications for graduation in May. Only 900 pre-registered for Spring. Enrollment for Fall was below 1500. Faculty will have to decide what to do if the BOG does not act toward solving the problems.

Darrel: We are on a sinking ship. It's obvious from the N-L report. All comments were related to Administration and IT. Nothing about faculty. The administration's response was for us to go out to schools to recruit more people. I don't view that as a response.

Discussion: Others (including Jammy and Darrell Thompson) said they (and their departments) actively recruit. (E.g., Humanities Challenge brought in teams from several schools, and the School of Education has a presence in several schools.) Suggestions that what the different schools are doing be shared within the institution. Possibility of hiring a consultant to examine what is being done and what should be done. Students have problems getting financial aid, and Degree Works is not up-to-date. No dorms for students on campus.

Darrel: Noel-Levitz survey/report addresses many of these issues. Report is at this link:

<https://sites.google.com/site/bscfacultywebsite/noel-levitz-report-on-recruitment-retention>

Discussion regarding committees. Frustration that committees make recommendations yet these are not followed. Have had paid consultants that make recommendations, and these were not followed.

Further discussion from earlier Faculty Senate meeting about addressing the Board of Governors. The Faculty Senate will ask to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting (Dec. 11). Consensus that the Board needs to hear from the faculty directly, and there should be representatives from each college present. The group will present specific solutions. Show the board that the faculty cares about the institution and its students and is willing to fight for its survival. We want the institution to thrive.

Geoff: We have got to make the presentation to the Board. The Board is the president's boss. If they do not allow us to give a presentation, then that tells us something. Hopefully the faculty can put together a team of our best speakers.

Darrel: Would like to see the deans present. That would show a unified front. In the end, we will give the presentation and see what happens.

Norm: They will allow the faculty chair with a couple of other people to present.

John: The administration gets to set the agenda. After presentations, it's time to go home. The Board doesn't understand the dire straits that we are in. I think we will get a positive response.

Norm: Administration presents positive things related to college. Shelia Johnson (VP Financial Affairs) has not yet explained how the college will address the (\$2 million) shortfall. The Board gets presentations, but there is no time for discussion. The meetings usually run from 6:45 to about 9 p.m.

John: Wants to emphasize that we are not being combative - we are trying to help the institution. We need to be bold in what we are doing. We need administrators who are change agents. We need to be provocative.

Geoff: Except for Shelia Johnson, the administrators don't have the stake in the college that we have. The Board of Governors turn over. Some have connections to the college, but some don't. We need to let them know that we are not just a bunch of malcontents but many of us are lifers here, whether we are getting ready to retire or not.

Darrel: Some of us are alumni.

Jammy: Noted that four of five deans were present. Reminder that they are faculty, too. Also - Administration has been supportive of Humanities Department (e.g., Humanities Challenge and Agora). But, students have been delayed in their progress when the classes were cuts.

Discussion: Whether this issue should remain within the institution or be made public. Consensus was that, at this time, this is an internal issue. Faculty needs to work as a team to ensure the institution's survival.

V. Adjournment.

At 4 p.m., Mike made a motion to adjourn. Tom seconded, and the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Czarnecki, Secretary