

Faculty Senate Minutes
September 17, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 4:12 p.m. All departments were in attendance except Accounting & Finance, Educational Foundations, and Elementary & Early Childhood Education.

I. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the September 3, 2013 meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved as written.

II. Proposed Courses and Programs

None

III. Report of the Faculty Senate Chairperson

Faculty Senate Chair Börger-Greco invited Dr. Ward and Mr. Bruszewski to speak. Dr. Ward encouraged faculty to participate in the SECA campaign with contributions due by November 1. Mr. Bruszewski announced upcoming budget sessions on campus and summarized the current situation as being workable though still restrictive. Mr. Bruszewski indicated that costs are being managed through frozen positions in some campus positions, primarily in AFSCME, and some TPTF replacements for vacancies. However, he indicated TPTF is still well below the 25% cap, student-faculty ratios are 20:1, and robust faculty recruitment is anticipated this year. It was noted that faculty pay would soon reflect the step increase.

IV. Report of the Student Senate

Student Senate President Miller reported that new faculty/staff advisors are needed for Student Senate. Executive Board meets Tuesdays at 6 pm and Senate Thursdays at 6:30 pm. Faculty are encouraged to engage in helping direct this critical campus activity.

V. Report of the Graduate Student Association

None

VI. Report of the Administrative Officers

Provost

A question was posed to Dr. Prabhu about whether faculty retrenchment should be expected at Millersville. Dr. Prabhu indicated that Millersville does not anticipate loss of current faculty. He noted that our conservative financial approach over the last decade with well-planned growth has kept us on solid footing. Dr. Prabhu suggested shifts in

growth towards out-of-state, international, and graduate students can help offset cuts and emphasized further development of attractive programs.

A concern was expressed about inflexible expectations being placed on student leaders and faculty advisors to attend mandatory meetings. It was noted that realistic expectations, advance notice, and flexibility is critical to avoid losing students and faculty willing to commit to leadership on campus. Dr. Prabhu will consult with Student Affairs and CSIL on this issue.

Associate Provost for Academic Administration

Dr. Adams noted a discussion group being organized around trends in higher education and encouraged faculty to participate.

Interim Dean of Education

Dr. Tuleya-Payne announced upcoming Education on Location events and the Lockey Lecture and encouraged faculty and student participation.

VII. Reports of the Faculty Senate Standing Committees

AOAC

Senator Schreiber noted AOAC is working with GERC on General Education competencies. Initial focus is on developing Critical Thinking, Writing, and Information Literacy rubrics. Anyone interested in these areas is welcome to join the groups defining common understandings for campus.

APC

Senator A. Miller reported that Senator Cardwell has agreed to work as webmaster to update and revamp the Faculty Senate website. Dr. Miller commented on the flexibility and collaborative approach needed from all faculty to begin implementing the revised Course Approval Process provisionally as APC continues to make modifications based on feedback and needs. She highlighted updates to the resource discussion guide based on feedback already. Dr. Miller indicated that an approval vote for the provisional adoption will be held at the October 1 meeting and urged departments to provide feedback. It was noted that the new format for proposals should make development easier and that the timing should be faster than the current process for well-developed proposals. APSCUF will review whether this process should be considered as a faculty referendum item.

UCPRC

Senator Douglas indicated that departments scheduled to complete GenEd recertifications have been notified. These should be submitted by October 29.

VIII. Reports of the Faculty Senate Special Committees

None

IX. Faculty Emeriti

None

X. Other/New Business

APSCUF

Dr. Mowrey announced the campus APSCUF meeting for 1 pm on October 9 in SMC 24. She also noted the conflict inherent in holding the Presidential Inauguration on a class day.

Retention Initiatives

Senator Sciarretta shared that advisors have been notified of advisees with academic issues who have been encouraged to meet with their advisors. He reminded faculty of seminars geared towards intervention to help these students. Dr. Prabhu commended Mr. Sciarretta's efforts, noting the positive impact on enrollment as well as for individual students.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aimee L. Miller
Faculty Senate Secretary

Action Summary:

The minutes of the September 3, 2013 meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved as written.