

Franklin College Faculty Senate
Minutes of the meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM in room 104 of Conner Hall, Dan Nakano presiding.

Members Present: John Achee, Christine Albright, Analisa Arroyo, Maor Bar-Peled, Mary Bedell, Renato Castelao, Tom Cerbu, Shanta Dhar, Inge DiBella, Dinani Husseina, Fred Dolezal, Diana Downs, Ray Freeman-Lynde, Lisa Fusillo, Kim Gilbert, Richard Gordon, Chad Howe, Richard Hubbard, Maria Hybinette, Takahiro Ito, Kevin Jones, Jain Kwon, Derrick Lemons, Tricia Lootens, Nicholas Morrissey, Lan Mu, Dan Nakano, Rielle Navitski, Lakshmesh Ramaswamy, Jeremy Reynolds, Jennifer Rice, Mitch Rothstein, Inseok Song, T.N. Sriram, Phillip Stancil, Lianchun Wang, Sarah Wright

Proxies: Brian Haas for Adam Goodie

Guests: None

Members not present: Adam Goodie, Jaclyn Hartenberger, Reid Messich, Rick Tarleton

Approval of the minutes of the November 17, 2015 meeting: Approved unanimously without corrections.

President Dan Nakano's Remarks

- Welcome to the first meeting of the spring semester.
- Secretary Adam Goodie was unable to attend, so former Secretary Christine Albright is taking the minutes today.
- President Nakano acknowledged Mitch Rothstein and the Faculty Affairs Committee for their work on two issues: 1. Voting rights for full-time, non tenure-track faculty members, which be summarized soon, and 2. A letter to Dean Dorsey regarding annual evaluations for faculty members.

Dean Dorsey's Remarks

- Dean Dorsey wished everyone a happy new year.
- Dean Dorsey announced some staffing changes. Kavita Pandit will leave UGA for Georgia State University on February 1st. Noel Fallows will step into that position as Interim Associate Provost for International Education. Sarah Cook has accepted another position, and a search is ongoing for her replacement as Senior Director of Development. Suzi Wong is now serving as Interim Director.
- With regard to budget, the legislature went into session last week. Governor Nathan Deal's budget plan includes a 3% raise for state employees. Dean Dorsey has been asked to plan for a 1/2 of 1% budget redirect which might be used for faculty and staff raises. Nothing is final, but these are good signs for a third year of raises. Still, a redirect means that there will be less money for hiring and other endeavors. The 2015 credit hours

generated by the college is up by 6/10 of 1%. This is a good trend, as credit hours were down previously. So far, this has been a good year for college fundraising. The development staff have raised 11.1 million dollars, significantly outpacing funds raised in previous years.

- If there are merit raises, department heads will be submitting recommendations in April, so cooperation on the part of faculty members in getting their annual reports in by March is necessary.
- About faculty annual evaluations, Dean Dorsey would like to add to President Nakano's remarks acknowledging Mitch Rothstein for his hard work on this issue. Dean Dorsey has met with department heads and has asked them for information about how they make decisions about evaluations and raises. He will be working with them to come up with guidelines. The goal is that every member of the faculty has a fair and clear annual evaluation.
- Questions were invited.

Committee Reports:

- Executive Committee: No new business reported.
- Curriculum Committee: Approved 59 new courses, approved 49 course changes
- Academic Standards Committee: Received 17 petitions: 5 approved, 12 denied
- Committee on Faculty Affairs: two issues discussed. The first was voting rights for full-time, non tenure-track faculty members, and there is no action needed at this time. The second was annual evaluations for faculty members, and this issue will be discussed at length shortly.
- Committee on Planning & Evaluation: No new business reported.

New Business:

- Mitch Rothstein reported that the Faculty Affairs Committee studied the issue of voting rights for full time non-tenure track faculty. They found that there were not many objections to the present situation. Their recommendation is that departments with cooperation from the Dean's office should be able to handle voting rights issues on a case by case basis.
- Mitch Rothstein reported that he met with Dean Dorsey and Associate Dean Ruppensburg to get their input regarding annual evaluations, and he also has received many statements about annual evaluations from senators. He and the Faculty Affairs Committee members have distilled the results into a letter to Dean Dorsey. With a motion to ratify the letter, Mitch Rothstein then read the letter aloud, which was projected on the screen at the front of the room and invited questions. Several senators proposed amendments to the wording of the letter's two recommendations. After some debate about exact wording, the recommendations were modified to read:

1. the departments of the college be allowed to carry out their own existing, revised, or newly formulated faculty evaluations, consistent with the principles stated in part I.
2. that a grading system or scorecard, such as “does not meet/meets/exceeds expectations”, not be required.

The motion to amend the wording of these recommendations passed with a vote of 25 in favor and 6 opposed.

A motion to return the original wording with the addition of “formulate and...” to the statement was forwarded so that the wording of the first recommendation would read:

1. the departments of the college be allowed to formulate and carry out their faculty evaluations in whatever manner best suits them, consistent with the principles stated in part I.

This motion passed with a vote of 15 in favor and 14 opposed.

A motion to approve the letter with these changes passed with a vote of 27 in favor and 3 against so that the ratified letter’s recommendations should read:

1. the departments of the college be allowed to formulate and carry out their faculty evaluations in whatever manner best suits them, consistent with the principles stated in part I.
2. that a grading system or scorecard, such as “does not meet/meets/exceeds expectations,” not be required.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine L. Albright
Franklin College Senate Proxy Secretary and Senator for Classics