Faculty Assembly Meeting Minutes Posvar Hall June 3, 2014

Topic/Discussion	Action
<u>Call to Order.</u> President Spring called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.	The meeting
	commenced.
Approval of the Minutes	The minutes
President Spring asked for approval of the minutes of the Faculty Assembly	were
meeting of April 29, 2014.	approved as
	written.
Introduction of Items of New Business.	No new
President asked if there were any new items of business to be brought forward.	business
Report of the President: Michael Spring	
Faculty and Staff Reception for Chancellor and Dr. Nikki Nordenberg on	
May 12 th was a spectacular success. More than 700 people attended the	
event and I think it is fair to say that the Nordenberg's were a little	
surprised and deeply appreciative of your gifts, both the contribution to	
the scholarship fund and the presentation of a new seating area dedicated	
to them.	
Fall Senate Plenary, interest continues to grow around Data Management	
and Governance, and including plans for deposition of research data	
stores. I've discussed the matter with Vice Provost Mark Redfern, this	
appears to be something worth looking into and I have begun to pull	
together a group to look at what we might do.	
> Today's agenda: We have one motion from the Bylaws and Procedures	
Committee, Chair, Scott Nelson and an information report from the	
<u>Commonwealth Relations Committee,</u> Co-Chairs, Debora Rougeux and Bob	
Daley	
Other efforts, I am pleased to tell you that the work of the Ad Hoc	
Committee on Non-Tenure Stream Faculty continues as does a sub-	
committee of Tenure and Academic Freedom on policies related to online	
speech. We are working on the final composition of a new Ad Hoc	
Committee approved by Faculty Assembly that will review policies for the	
annual review of tenured faculty and related salary decisions.	
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Jay Sukits: School of Business	
Observations on the state of classroom maintenance – 3 examples from Lawrence	
Hall, Posvar Hall, & the Cathedral of Learning.	
Senior Accounting Professor, while giving final exams in 1501 Posvar had so	
many light bulbs out that he had to shift students around the room so they	
could see to take their final exams.	
208B Cathedral of Learning has window coverings that are so old they are	
inoperable. This room also tends to collect "junk" (ie: a box of Legos)	
> 1640 Pile of rubbish reported several times, 2 days before semester began	
it was still there. Took 20 minutes to find 2 maintenance workers and ask	
them to help him clean the room.	
 In a first class University, we should be presenting first class facilities. 	
There seems to be no responsiveness.	
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Comments:

- -Going straight to Facilities seems to work (in Chemistry Bldg)
- -Classroom management team, chaired by registrar, deals with upgrades (like window coverings.) Go thru Registrar of Dean of Registrar

Spring: Normal mechanism for addressing this issue is Plant Utilization and Planning. The Registrar and Facilities are receptive to these issues. There needs to be a mechanism for faster response.-Possibly a ticket/ tracking system (as in IT) -Another issue is cleanliness of restrooms, appears to be no set maintenance schedule

Spring: Suspect division of labor between day crew and night crew is causing confusion. Visible reporting/tracking system and regular scheduled maintenance are potential solutions. Issue will be referred to PUP

Reports by and Announcements of Special and Standing Committees of the Senate

<u>Educational Policies Committee, Vice Provost, Juan Manfredi</u> Accreditation serves two purposes

- To insure that institutions that are eligible for federal financial aid (Title IV Funds) meet basic threshold standards of quality
- Encourage institutional self-improvement thru periodic external review.

There are 6 regional accreditation agencies in the US, approximately geographically organized. Ours is the Middle States Commission of Higher Education based in Philadelphia. Institutions are accredited every 10 years, must submit progress report every 5th year. We are accredited from 2012 – 2022; periodic report due 2017. Committee will be formed sometime next year to draft this report. There is no visit with PRR.

Latest public draft of the proposed revised standards: http://www.msche.org/documents/characteristicsdraft120913.pdf

Guiding Principles and Steering Committee Composition http://www.msche.org/documents/chx2013guidingprinciples070813.pdf

Verification of Compliance with Accreditation-Relevant Federal Regulations https://www.msche.org/publications/ComplianceBook2014FINAL.pdf

General information about accreditation in the US (and abroad) http://www.chea.org/

General information about Middle States https://www.msche.org/

ByLaws and Procedure Committee: Professor Scott Nelson, Chair

Proposed amendment to Article IV, Section 9 tabled from February 18, 2014

Article IV, Section 9: Chair and Secretary

(a) The voting members of each Standing Committee shall elect the Committee Chair and Secretary for terms of office of one year. The Chair shall be an elected faculty member; the Secretary may be with an elected or pro tem faculty members of the Committee. Co-chairs may be elected

Approved with 2 abstentions

at the Committee's discretion. Terms shall run Jul1 through June 30. The election shall be held on the first meeting after the newly-elected standing committee members are announced and shall be held no later than June 30. The immediate past chair shall, for the first four months of the new term year, be a non-voting member ex officio of the Committee (unless the Chair continues to hold membership of the committee) (Exact wording was in a handout distributed at the meeting)

No vote but show of hands agreement

Open vs closed meeting: (<u>Exact wording was in a handout distributed at the meeting</u>) Not officially voted on, for this is for use in the Senate handbook, not an official document.

<u>Commonwealth Relations Committee: Co-Chairs, Professor Bob Daley and Ms.</u> <u>Debora Rougeux</u>

- ➤ Joint_meeting with Community Relations Committee in fall, invited 4 legislators: Erin Molchany, Hal English, Rick Saccone and one other. Fourth cancelled, twice. Raised issue of attendance. Attendance is down; possibly due to cancelled meetings, possibly due to change of venue (Bruce Hall to Babcock Room.)
- Decision made to re-examine purpose of the meetings; (informational exchange vs advocacy), and scope; (since commonwealth funding has decreased should invitations be expanded from state legislators to include executive (governor's office), county executive, city executives.)
- Met with Executive Committee to discuss these issues.
- ➤ Moving forward next year planning to invite more people from the Commonwealth.
- Right now we invite about one person per month, probably increase it to two. Downside; increased chance of cancelations, more negative feeling of faculty who have set aside time for meetings, expense of luncheons. Meetings at branch campus; Bradford didn't work out for a number of reasons but will plan on doing that again this year
- Survey: emails sent to 98 people, 45 responses. Overwhelmingly in favor of expanding scope to include City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, and PA Executive branch, with legislative branch still main focus. Complete survey results will be included with annual report.
- Will be working on bylaws change to change name from Commonwealth Relations Committee to Government Relations Committee. Concern over conflict with Community Relations Committee unfounded, they work primarily with the Oakland community and in fact encouraged expansion of scope to include governmental relations on all levels.
- Means of increasing awareness and involvement of members of the community in meetings of the committee, particularly luncheon meetings: Survey asking faculty for more information about legislative districts in order to be included on invitation lists when their particular representative was going to be a guest; 56% would participate in survey distributed at faculty assembly and senate council, 84% would respond to a survey distributed on my.pitt.edu, 61% would be in favor of allowing Human Resources to provide committee with a list of guest legislators' constituents in the Pitt community. List of potential guests to be included in annual report.

List of additional suggestions will also be included in annual report. Suggestion to be implemented next academic year; committee will meet (outside of guest luncheon) once a month to discuss strategy issues, problems and other member concerns. Minutes may be taken at meetings/luncheon to be distributed, hopefully increasing awareness of committee.

Computer Usage Committee, Professor Alex Labrinidis, Co-Chair

- Read Green; started in April 2010, default setting as of February, dramatic reduction of paper usage (164,000 hard copies to 11,000)
- PeopleSoft issues and updates; handling waiting lists for complicated cases (cross-listed courses, labs & recitations), registrar's office looking into it, trying to make things more simple. Class search, button for campus now has default.
- Wireless capability is increasing, specific feedback form on my.pitt.edu to report issues with wireless.
- > Box.com: storage increased from 25gb to 50gb
- ➤ Upcoming: Dashboard for PIs to have direct access to research accounting data, access to live data, if interested in looking at beta contact committee to be included in initial phase.
- Email changes: campus-wide movement to Microsoft Exchange 2013, transition over summer, no change for Exchange users, IMAP users need to change to Exchange, better integration with Microsoft applications, new spam quarantine

Unfinished Business and/or New Business Praise for Senate Matters Column by Cindy Tananis – Non-Tenure-Stream Faculty: What does THAT mean? Adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM Means adjourned

Respectfully submitted, Linda Rose Frank, Senate Secretary

Members attending:

Baker, Bircher, Clark, Daley, Flynn, Fort, Frank, Frieze, Gaddy, Goodhart, Groark, Kear, Kelly, Labrinidis, Lyon, Miller, Molinaro, Munro, Neft, Nelson, Novy, Poloyac, Riccelli, Rougeux, Shafiq, Skledar, Smith, Smitherman, Song, Spring, Sukits, Tananis, Vieira, Weinberg, Wilson, Withers

Members not attending:

Alarcon, Alexander, Ansell, Ataai, Buchanich, Caldwell, Cauley, Chase, Chiarulli, Clermont, de Montmollin, Erickson, Fusco, Gibson, Gleason, Hravnak, Hughes, Jackson Foster, Jones, Karp, Leers, Lewicka, Lin, Majumdar, Mauk, McKinney, McLaughlin, Morel, Mulcahy, Nisnevich, Savinov, Savun, Smolinski, Tisherman, Weiss, White, Withiam

*Excused attendance:

Beck, Burkoff, Butterworth, Cohen, Costantino, Irrgang, Kovacs, Lunsford, Ramsey

Others attending:

Balaban, Barlow, Fedele Manfredi

^{*} Notified Senate Office