

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
Senate Educational Policies Committee
May 19, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Present: Amy Aggelou, Bonnie Falcione, Irene Frieze, M. Kathleen Kelly, Juan Manfredi, Cynthia Tananis

Excused: Zsuzsa Horvath, Mary Lou Liebold, Kimberly Brown-Riley, Laurel Roberts

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

The April meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

New Business:

No new business came before the committee.

Old Business:

The committee wanted to finalize discussions on the issue of providing more course-related detail to students prior to the class enrollment. Multiple meetings included discussions that centered on enhancing the *already existing* Course Description postings that are housed in Arts & Sciences (<http://www.courses.as.pitt.edu/>). The committee agreed that it would be worthwhile to identify common elements that would be useful to include on the forms. The committee does want to recommend that Faculty review the current Course Descriptions and update as necessary. Everyone agreed that the information supplied should be informative for the students. At this point in time there were no recommendations for any further action.

Vice Provost updates:

(Dr. Manfredi)

- The University Registrar announced a new PeopleSoft feature, ***My Planner***. This feature will allow students and advisors to plan ahead and organize courses needed to complete one's major. More information is available at: <http://www.registrar.pitt.edu/training.html>
- Relative to this time last year the freshman to sophomore retention trends are looking very positive.
- As of May 30 we received more than 3,900 deposits and the applicant qualifications are even better than last year.

(Dr. Sbragia)

- The Search Committee for the Senior Director of International Programs & UCIS Director has narrowed the field to 3 candidates. The position should be filled by January, 2015.
- The Graduate Student Career Development Committee has developed a conceptual framework for graduate student career development. The committee developed a template that can be customized for each individual unit as they help graduate students plan their career trajectories. The committee was comprised of faculty from across the University and represents the schools of the Health Sciences, Arts & Sciences, Engineering, Social Work, the Institute for Clinical Research Education and Office of Academic Career Development.

Faculty Assembly update:

Three reports and announcements of Special and Standing Committees of the Senate were presented:

1. Ad hoc Committee to Investigate NTS Faculty Issues (Irene Freeze, Chair)
Committee met initially in September of 2013 and has been meeting regularly since. “Although good progress has already been made regarding sensitivity to the special concerns of Non-Tenure Stream Faculty (NTS Faculty), still more needs to be done.” The committee made multiple recommendations to support NTS faculty. Upcoming meetings will look at issues that face Part-Time Faculty.
2. Plant Utilization and Planning Committee (Susanna Leers & Patricia Weiss, Co-Chairs)
Committee meets two times per year and has “field trips” to various campus sites. Recycling and energy conservation initiatives within Pitt buildings has saved the University a considerable amount of money. “Sustainability” has now been absorbed into the PUP committee.
3. Tenure and Academic Freedom Committee (Barry Gold and Maria Kovacs, co-chairs)
Senate voted to create an ad-hoc committee to review and summarize currently existing performance evaluations and related salary reduction decision policies that pertain to tenured faculty across and within all schools.

ACIE Update:

- Thirty –three completed Innovations in Education proposals were received this year and 10 awards were made by the Provost. The ACIE Council discussed mechanisms to further improve the ACIE Council process for reviewing proposals with emphasis on orienting new council members.
- CIDDE will feature a new series ‘Destination Diversity’ which is being offered in lieu of the Diversity workshop this summer. The next event will be held on June 16th and will feature Lenka Giramella. A Diversity Summit is being held in June to identify opportunities to evolve the Diversity workshop and related programs.
- Reference was made to the New Media Consortium’s 2014 Horizon Report as it relates to the emerging technologies and trends that will have an impact on teaching & learning. The report can be found at: <http://www.nmc.org/publications/2014-horizon-report-higher-ed>

SEPC future planning:

SEPC members Zsuzsa Horvath and Bonnie Falcione will assume the duties of the SEPC Chair and Co-Chair, respectively. The transition will take place on July 1, 2014.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.

***This was the last meeting of the AY 2013-14.*