Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2016, 11:00 AM
Byrd Hall Auditorium

FACULTY SENATE MEETING PARTICIPANTS - 05/03/2016

Call to Order
Joelle Neulander
The last Faculty Senate meeting for the 2016 spring semester started at 11:00am.

Approval of Minutes from 4-19-2016
Joelle Neulander
The Minutes from 4-19-16 Faculty Senate meeting were approved with minor editorial corrections.

Approval of Committee Charters
Joelle Neulander
After a motion was made and seconded to approve four of the following standing committee charters, the Senate adopted the following committee charters with some minor editorial corrections:

1. Faculty Excellence (Attachment 1)
2. Athletic Advisory (Attachment 2)
During the discussion, it was clarified that all membership assignments should normally be based on a calendar year to improve continuity. Committee chairs should be elected in January with the exception of Faculty Tenure and Promotion which shall be elected in the May. There was also discussion concerning subcommittee membership for ad hoc subcommittees appointed to address specific charges or concerns. Subcommittee membership is open to anyone that a committee feels is appropriate. The Senate Executive Committee will provide assistance if requested, but will leave the operations of the committees to the committee members.

**Items from Curriculum Committee**

Lori Hicklin presented the report of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (Attachment 5), which included:

- New courses in FNAR HIST, ENGL, PHYS and COMM;
- Minor structural changes to the English major, History major, Computer Science major, and Political Science major;
- Addition of an Education minor;
- Renaming of the Department of English to the Department of English, Fine Arts, and Communications;
- Transfer of BADM 216 from the School of Business to the Department of English, Fine Arts, and Communications and renumbering the course as COMM 216;

After motion was made and seconded, the Senate adopted the report of the committee.

**Report from the Provost**

Dr. Book gave the following updates:

1) We are working on revising the college regulations to reflect the fact we have a Faculty Senate. Those happen once a year at the June Board of Visitor meeting.

2) Last time when we voted on the timeline for Tenure and Promotion, Dave Trautman went back to look at the document and discovered a date error. In the new timeline, the department head report is separated from the departmental committee report by about two weeks or so and they should be made at the same time. Recommendation is both reports should be made at the same time. Both documents will be due December 15th.

3) Thank you to all Faculty Senators for participating in graduation ceremonies. They will have separate seating. Carla DeMille will be sending out a reminder on what door to use. Joel & Bob Riggle will let you know what Marshall to follow to the seating area.

**Vote on Uniform Policy**

A motion was made and duly seconded that the Senate recommend a change to the faculty uniform wear policy for faculty over 62 years of age (Attachment 6). After discussion, the motion was voted down with 28 no and 5 yes votes.

**Plus/Minus Grading System**

John Moore
John Moore spoke regarding a proposal to institute a plus/minus grading system (Attachment 7). After a long discussion that pointed out numerous advantages and disadvantages of the plus/minus grading system, the Senate voted to table the proposal. The Senate also adopted a motion that the institution undertakes a more detailed study of the impact of changing to a plus/minus grading system.

**Discussion: Finals Schedule/ Reading Period**

Suzanne Mabrouk began a conversation about scheduling and implementing a reading period for the cadets of more than three hours for finals. Cadets currently go from full classes one day, to a half day of reading and then right into final exams that afternoon. Having a couple of days between full class days and the final exams would give the students a chance to assimilate all the material before having to take their final exam. During the discussion, there was also a suggestion to make the final exam periods 2 hours long compared to the current 3 hours long. This would give more exam period slots over fewer days. This conversation will continue at future meetings.

**Core Curriculum**

Joelle Neulander

The faculty will be taking a serious look at the Core Curriculum in the upcoming academic year. This summer, some of the Faculty Senate members will be going to Boston to discuss the Core Curriculum at a four day seminar and to work on a proposal for the faculty’s consideration. The Executive Committee intends to bring the proposal to the Faculty Senate in September, and the Senate will then have the remainder of the year to conduct discussions within the schools and departments.

**Other Business**

Chair Neulander will be sending everybody a schedule of the Faculty Senate meetings for next year. The first meeting will be August 23rd at 2pm (right after Convocation). She will also email everybody throughout the summer with updates and other information. She thanked everyone for their service as we move forward with the Faculty Senate.

**Adjournment-**

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:04pm