

November 20, 2013 Faculty Meeting Minutes – FINAL

Faculty Chair Welcome -- Faculty Chair Abir Biswas opened the meeting at 1:15.

General Announcements -- The following announcements were made:

- GSU Representative Brendan Hale announced that the GSU will soon elect first-year student members, the GSU has proposed a change to the student disciplinary process related to student organizations, and Student Representative to the Board of Trustees Dante Garcia is working on a project called Open Source Evergreen.
- Sandy Yannone announced an Evergreen Faculty Survey on Student Writing that will soon be distributed.
- Abir announced a need for additional faculty to serve on the Faculty Hiring DTF and sought self-nominations.

Approve October 30th, 2013 Faculty Meeting Minutes – A request was made that the minutes reflect that the Faculty Chair announced that Agenda Committee meetings are closed. A brief discussion ensued and the Agenda Committee will discuss a proposed change and bring the minutes back for approval at the next Faculty Meeting.

Agenda Committee Meetings Update – Abir read the following statement from the Agenda Committee that was prepared in response to concerns raised on the topic of who can attend Agenda Committee meetings:

Many of you will recall that at the last faculty meeting, the AC responded to a request about how faculty can participate in Agenda Committee meetings. It should be clear that the AC was not trying to institute a new practice or policy, but simply trying to clarify existing practice. Since then, we have heard from many of you. We appreciate the variety of legal and historical perspectives on how AC meetings have been run, and how they should be run. Many people have stated the need for openness in AC meetings. The AC agrees.

Since some faculty members questioned whether or not the existing practices of the AC were in fact legal, we obtained a legal opinion from the Attorney General's office on this matter. The College's assistant attorney general has stated that:

In general, the Agenda Committee would not be subject to the OPMA because it is not a "governing body" of a "public agency". The governing body of the College is the Board of Trustees and the Agenda Committee is not a policy or rule-making body of the College created pursuant to statute, nor is it a committee acting on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

As a representative body of the faculty, the agenda committee has a responsibility to provide open, transparent governance to our constituency, and to forward their interests. What does "open" mean here? [SLY] All faculty members are welcome at every regular AC meeting. All faculty members are welcome to request agenda items prior to the meeting, and speak to those items during the meeting. We want faculty to bring matters to us that fall within our purview. We could not operate otherwise. Everyone who attends these meetings is asked to respect the agenda, time allotted, space, and people in the room.

Although the law allows for AC meetings to be closed, this doesn't mean they should be closed. In keeping with past practice, the AC will continue the tradition of assuming that AC meetings are open to all faculty. At the same time, just because faculty can attend AC meetings doesn't mean that they always should. A nuanced sensitivity to participation is also part of our past practice.

For example, at the annual AC retreat, the AC gets together to know each other better. Over the summer, subgroups of the AC meet to discuss staffing DTFs. Sometimes faculty and administrators request a meeting with the AC specifically because they are not prepared to or do not want to discuss an issue in front of the entire faculty. These are times when observers are generally not present. Our statement at the last AC meeting was meant to capture some of these nuances, but failed to do so. If we as a faculty would like to change how AC meetings are run, that is our collective decision, and the AC welcomes faculty input on the matter.

Campus Website Update – The web team provided an overview of updates to Evergreen's website and what prompted the work. Faculty were encouraged to sign up to participate in future usability studies or to otherwise assist in the upgrade.

Long-Range Curriculum DTF – The DTF's proposals regarding Internships and Individual Learning Contracts (section A), Curriculum Development (section B), and a Standing Committee on the Curriculum (section C) were distributed earlier in the week. Section A was discussed at length, including a variety of recommendations for change in the proposal. Section B was only briefly discussed.

Faculty Hiring Principles and Practices – Jose Gomez introduced a draft letter to the president expressing disappointment over his recent faculty hiring decision that he wrote with assistance from Kathleen Eamon. He indicated his intent in writing the letter was to capture a broad range of sentiments from the last faculty meeting discussion on this matter. A discussion of the letter ensued, where a variety of opinions were aired. After about 20 minutes, the faculty voted to close the discussion and then voted on the letter. The motion passed by a vote of 66 in favor, 7 against and 5 abstained.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02.