

Faculty Meeting Minutes –October 6, 2010

SEM II B1105, 1:00-3:00pm

Opening:

The meeting was opened at 1:20 in harmony. Joe welcomed everyone and invited announcements:

Announcements:

- Allen Olson, who recently acquired the Summer School Dean's work, invited faculty to let him know if they are interested in teaching summer school as future information will be directed to those who express interest. He also indicated he sent an e-mail to students asking them to identify their primary interests for summer school offerings.
- Nancy Murray introduced our Kobe exchange faculty, Shoji Kamise to great applause.
- Julie Garver invited faculty to attend a candidates' forum for those running in Thurston, Lewis and Mason counties next Wednesday from 3-5 in the Recital Hall.

Geoduck Student Union Announcements:

Kent Reister from the GSU announced that they have had one meeting and one retreat this year and are still just getting started. He indicated they see themselves as more of a union than a government. GSU will have elections later this quarter as they are short 7 members. They will be assigning students to various governance tasks. GSU re-affirmed a resolution passed last spring regarding divestment.

Kent turned the floor over to Lee Mell from the student group Socialist Alternatives, who is organizing the Walk Out/Teach In occurring tomorrow, which is the 9th anniversary of the invasion of Afghanistan. Lee went on to describe the reasoning for the walkout, which is endorsed by several student groups and the Washington Faculty Union. He indicated there will be no march on offices, pulling of fire alarms or banners stating "smash capitalism". He indicated their main thinking is to promote activism and that many students will only walk out between 11:45-1.

Agenda Committee Priorities:

Joe Tougas described the Agenda Committee priorities, as broken into four categories:

- Information/Reporting – President, Provost, A/C Tasks, Student Voices (GSU, BOT Rep), Capital Project Updates, DTF Reports, Staff-led initiatives (Day of Absence/Presence, Website, Student Wellness, Campus Safety, Recruiting- Admissions)
- Consultation (discussion, feedback, advisory notes) – Provost hire, Library Dean hire, Faculty Handbook Revision DTF, Accreditation Standard One
- Action Initiatives – RTaLE (faculty and A/C working together), Evolving Planning Unit structure, Comprehensive Wellness, Sustainability, Academic Freedom/Campus Climate (pro-actively set standards), Faculty Meeting/UFE Division of Labor (management/labor relationships)
- "Behind the Scenes" A/C tasks -- Agenda setting (looking ahead), Governance assignments (still have positions to fill and assignments to make for this year), Building/nurturing lines of communication among faculty, planning units, between faculty and staff/students

Joe asked if there are questions or additions to the agenda. A question was raised regarding what deliberations the Agenda Committee has had to date regarding continuing the Academic Freedom/Campus Climate discussion began last year. It was answered that the Agenda Committee has put this out visibly as a statement of commitment to continue to pursue this agenda item.

Provost Search DTF Update:

Co-chair Lisa Sweet indicated she is here on behalf of the DTF. She described the work done since last spring:

- The DTF met last June for two days to review survey responses and discuss their priorities for academic leadership.
- They met again in September to discuss how they would proceed.
- They are in the process of reviewing applications at this time. Their goal is to have a list of semi-finalists by October 20th, and to invite finalists to campus in January. There is not anything they can reveal about the applicants at this point due to promised confidentiality to the candidates.
- The Search Committee members, in addition to Lisa, are: Laura Coghlan, Laura Grabhorn, Ruth Hayes, Heather Heying (co-chair), Holly Joseph, Abby Kelso, Mesa Lindgren, Maia Bellon, David McAvity, Greg Mullins, Mindy Muzatko, Alice Nelson, Susan Preciso, Tyrus Smith, Todd Sprague, Zoe Van Schyndel and Jeannie Chandler (providing support to the DTF).
- When asked, Lisa indicated the pool is very exciting, it contains candidates with a broad range of professional and life experience
- A question was raised regarding whether finalists' application materials can be put online on a password protected site. Lisa indicated she will look into this request.

RTaLE DTF 2010-2011 Work Introduction:

Co-chairs Kathleen Eamon & Julia Zay invited the DTF members who are present to introduce themselves: Nancy Murray, Krishna Chowdary, Eric Stein, Julia Zay, Kathleen Eamon, Stephen Beck, Alex Snow-Massara, Anna Wolfe-Pauly and Julie Slone. The other DTF members were acknowledged as well: Laura Coghlan, Shaw Osha, Andrea Coker-Anderson, Norma Alicia Pino, Gilda Sheppard, Vauhn Foster-Grahler, Richard Weiss, Rip Heminway, Steven Hendricks, Sandy Yannone, Lisa Hurwitz and Sara Martin.

Julia thanked faculty for their participation and continued to provide an update of the work to date: Last year the DTF developed and discussed a 'page of pies' which included student transcripts, faculty-student advising and curriculum. They addressed each issue individually keeping in mind they needed to meet accreditation concerns as well as internal motivations for change. Julia indicated that the DTF has now prioritized its work to include student voice in the transcript and faculty advising which are referred to in the proposal handout. Should these proposals move forward, it is believed by the DTF that the issues related to the curriculum, which the DTF is not currently addressing, will become more obvious. Kathleen went on to affirm that the work being done is not, as some have expressed concern about, being done primarily as a response to the external accreditation process. She went on to describe the process for this quarter, which will culminate in a vote on a proposal regarding a required annual academic statement, supported by faculty advising, contingent on some acknowledgment of the work (e.g., additional compensated work, academic credit, integration into work) it may generate. The Week 5 faculty meeting will be solely dedicated to reading and discussing the proposal and draft models in the handout; on week 8 there will be additional discussion and a vote on the academic statement/advising proposal.

2010-2011 Supplemental Budget Reduction Update:

Walter Niemiec first framed the budget cut scenario for 2009-2011:

- The College has already reduced its budget by 7% (approx \$2 million)
- The College raised tuition in 2009 & 2010.
- There was an additional \$600,000 College cut, which was intended to be deferred to 11-13.
- This summer the governor received additional bad economic news and asked for an additional 6.3%, \$1.2 million dollars, – which actually totals \$1.8 million when you include the \$600,000 deferred amount.
- Academics is taking the immediate action by cutting 2.5 temporary faculty lines.
- Reserves and the revenue generated by over-enrollment will cover the rest of the \$1.2 million cut for this current fiscal year.
- We are funded for 4200 students, 4600 are enrolled for fall quarter.

The projection for the next biennium is an additional 10% cut to the State funding (not the entire college budget). That said, there is a lot that is unknown (e.g., elections, Legislature, State revenue, etc.). Additionally, there are several initiatives being discussed, (e.g., RTaLE), and areas of the college where the budget cuts

already taken are not in the best interests of the College. The other area that we're sensitive to and needs to be examined is the cost of attendance for students (a consultant is being hired to help the college make decisions in this regard). The Strategic Enrollment Group is looking at the mix of in-State/Out-of-state students as the College is able to put more money into reserves when there is an increase in out-of-State students.

Walter then entertained questions/comments:

- He was asked about the faculty/student ratio. He responded that the faculty salary pool is a set budget that will be reduced. Reserves will be used to fund the over-enrollment for fall.
- A question was raised regarding out-of-state students. He responded the mix is being adjusted to 23% from 20%.
- Clarification of re-basing was sought and responded to, (it is primarily used to offset cuts).
- A question was raised regarding the level of growth the State expects of the College, is there still an impetus for the College to grow to 5000 FTE? Discussion ensued.
- A question was raised regarding whether or not there are legislative initiatives in place. It was responded that there is a task force looking at funding for higher education. Additionally, Julie Garver has been meeting with the UFE and others. Also, the Governor appointed Les to serve on the Higher Ed Task Force committee. Requests were made for further education in this regard.
- A comment was made that it is assumed that if the income tax initiative passes, most of the monies will go towards education.
- Worry was expressed that students, who have the least power, will be asked to pay the highest proportion.

Faculty Advisory Panel on the College Budget discussion/decision (Minor):

Joe began this discussion by acknowledging the work of the current FAP members Clarissa Dirks, Lydia McKinstry and Jules Unsel. He went on to indicate there is currently a restriction on which faculty can stand for this governance assignment. A question was raised regarding the governance expectation of temporary faculty. The history of the current language was reviewed. It was recollected that the reasoning for the language is the compromised position that a temporary faculty may be in as a member of this committee. A question was raised regarding the need for FAP, created prior to UFE, with a request to the Agenda Committee to address this. Acknowledgement was given to the major governance work that temporary faculty have been engaged in in the past. It was suggested that this issue should not be seen to diminish the appreciation for the quality of work of the temporary faculty. It was remembered it was a conscious decision to add the "term/continuing contract" language to the resolution that resulted in this Panel. It was further suggested that it is "near-reprehensible" if there are not currently term/continuing who are willing to stand for this position. It was suggested that if the motion does not pass, the role of FAP should be re-examined.

The motion to amend the Faculty Advisory Panel on the College Budget to allow for temporary faculty was defeated.

Faculty Advisory Panel on the College Budget nominations/election: Stacey Davis was nominated and elected as a member of the Faculty Advisory Panel on the College Budget. Stacey's was thanked by her faculty colleagues for her willingness to serve.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05p.m. The next Faculty Meeting will be on Wednesday, October 27, 2010, from 1:00-3:00p.m. in SEM II B1105