Faculty Senate Minutes  
Monday, February 12, 2007

In attendance: Anthony Donaldson; Barry Parker; Betsy Morris; Bob Namvar; Carl Schafer; Don Dunavant; Jan Kodat; Kathryn Fagan; Laura Veltman; Nathan Lewis; Nathan Lewis III; Richard Mobley; Susan Drummond; Susan Studer

I. Meeting was opened with prayer.

II. Minutes for January 22, were approved.

III. Dr. Kathryn Fagan reported that a Course Evaluation Reliability Study Task Force has been formed to conduct a reliability study on CBU course evaluation. The other members of the task force are Dr. Ann Marie Larsen, Dr. Sean Sullivan, and Phil Martinez. A proposal was made to the Provost office for approval. The fundamental goal of this proposal is to develop a reliability estimate on the course evaluation. If this proposal is approved by the Provost office, it will be presented to the IRB for approval. Upon approval, the subsequent steps will follow:

• Each Dean and Chair is asked to select at least one course in their School or Department. Two “false” iterations of the regular 17-question paper questionnaire evaluation will be administered in the selected course on March 12th and March 26th. The evaluations will be “false” in that none of the data will be used as actual evaluations of the professors but only for the reliability test.

• A sample of 300 students would be an effective sample. Data from each of the iterations in each course will be collected and processed as usual by Phil Martinez/Collette Papp. The processed data will be provided to Dr. Fagan and the Course Evaluation Reliability Study Task Force to process and evaluate the results in a “test-retest” comparison.

• The validity test on course evaluation will follow (perhaps next fall) the reliability test this spring.

• It was agreed that the Senate selected committee on course evaluation joins the Course Evaluation Reliability Study task force to avoid any duplicate effort on course evaluation.

IV. Committee reports:

➢ The Committee on Issues Concerning Rapid Growth of University has met and agreed to develop a survey and publish it to all faculty members to collect more data.
Representing the Committee on Health Benefit for Retiring Faculty, Richard Mobley met with Dr. Parker on health issues for retiring faculty. He reported that Dr. Parker is open to make decisions based on individual needs for continuing health insurance by retiring faculty members, rather than make it as a general stated policy. A concern was raised that if it is not a stated policy and not reflected in the Faculty Handbook, how can faculty members know about it? Also, what criteria would be used in determining a positive response?

The Culture of Research Committee will present data and their findings in the March 2007 faculty meeting and will conduct a new survey.

The Committee on Academic Technology proposed to Dr. Parker a plan to conduct a comprehensive survey to find out our future needs in the area of technology. At the present time, the main concerns are:

- Computers using Microsoft Office 2003 to read Microsoft Office 2007 files have different default formats.
- Cost to students to upgrade to new operating system and the confusion related to the number of versions.
- The untested commercial version of the new system has not been on the market long enough to assess compatibility and functional problems – need to wait until the first “service pact” is released.

V. A motion made, seconded, and passed unanimously that: the Faculty Senate will invite the CBU Director of Human Resources to one of the Senate meetings to share information with the Senators about a comparison of the CBU health insurance coverage policy with other comparable universities with respect to health insurance for retiring faculty and spouse coverage. Also, the Senate requests to get information regarding the health care provider selection process and updates.

VI. To facilitate the selection of the next year Faculty Senate Officials, the Faculty Senate recommends: that an announcement soliciting nominations for officers be made at the next full faculty meeting in March; and, that all nominations go to the Secretary of the Faculty Senate to prepare a slate of nominations for voting at the April meeting of the faculty.

VII. Responding to concerns passed on to the Senate by a faculty member through the president, discussion will continue on the implications of wide-ranging responsibilities of the newly appointed Dean of College of Professional Studies in the next Faculty Senate meeting.

VIII. Suggestion was made that the Senate devise some procedure to promote
more effective continuity of Senate activity from one academic year to the next. New Senate members are not always aware of agenda items covered and actions taken by previous Senate sessions.

IX. Senate Adjourned at 4:00 PM

X. Next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2007

Respectfully submitted by Bob Namvar, Faculty Secretary/ Treasurer