Minutes of the Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate: August 28, 2012

Senators in attendance: Ashlee Claud, Tolga Durak, Elizabeth McCormick, Alice Coughlin, Ed Oakes, Brent Chumbley, Jeff Orzolek, Stephanie Jennelle, Beth Deskins, Donna Spradlin, Laura Noll, Robyn Porterfield

Senators unable to attend: Matt Haga, James Harman, Robbie Davis

Guests: Dennie Templeton, Meghan Worrell, Jim Quesenberry, Connie Phillips, John Albano, Tom Cruise, Nicholas Dominkovics, Crasha Perkins

Meeting started at 10 AM; May’s minutes were approved.

Old business:

* + - 1. Still working on AP Faculty Handbook revisions. Ashlee Claud talked with Bill Kennan, who gave some insights; still need to talk with Joey Sword about other HR-related things. Miscellaneous items to work on: Deans’ evaluations; extra income statement – is it required by the state?; linking to other documents rather than spelling them out in the Handbook; does it need to go to the Attorney General before going to the Board of Visitors?
      2. New web site for AP Senate is up. Claud and Elizabeth McCormick worked on it over the summer with folks from the Division of Information Technology (DoIT). The Senate’s By-laws and past minutes are up but it’s still a work in progress. Questions to be answered: can we get to it from the RU home page? Is the old site still being maintained? Answer to first question: yes, click on the Faculty/Staff link about mid-screen and it’s the first link under “Current Faculty and Staff: Services and Resources.”
      3. Internal Governance reform: recap: Rod Smolla, President of Furman University (SC), has been hired as a consultant to evaluate RU’s current IG structure and make recommendations about it, since he has experience in this sort of thing. He visited on June 6 and we’re waiting for his report from that but we do know that he has recommended that we scrap entirely our current IG structure and start new; he will send the IG Transition Committee three models of possible configurations for everyone at RU to review and comment on. President Kyle is very supportive of reform. A web site for the Transition Committee is being developed and will have the minutes of their meetings.

New business:

Rod Smolla will be back on campus on October 25 and 26. At today’s Senate meeting Claud hopes to begin a list of our concerns to bring to his meeting with the AP Senate on October 26. Dennie Templeton pointed out that past problems need to be identified (old tensions between the three Senates; view that the Faculty Senate seemed to drive most concerns on campus). Donna Spradlin suggested looking at how we (AP faculty) help the university and how it protects us or not; what else is our role? Templeton brought up representation: AP faculty and classified staff weren’t well represented in the past; AP faculty have no protection through tenure or the state; recognition of AP faculty teaching and work. Ed Oakes commented that we’re challenged to identify issues that are important; we aren’t getting things through because of IG so how would it work if IG changed? Tolga Durak asked if the transition would look at processes. Connie Phillips commented that it should because IG runs how the university should function. Laura Noll mentioned looking at committees, their structure, and how people get appointed to them – how does all that work; what can/do committees really do? Oakes gave an example: if we get rid of AP Senate, then how do AP faculty get their concerns heard? Robyn Porterfield suggested communication and training of supervisors.

Timetable for October visit:

Oct. 25: 3:30 – Smolla meets with Faculty Senate; later, with SGA

Oct. 26: some time in the morning, will meet with Staff Senate; at 11 AM, will meet with AP Senate. He needs to leave by 2:30 but will have a town hall session before he leaves.

If you can’t make the 11 AM meeting with AP Senate on Oct. 26, you’re free to attend his meeting with the Faculty or Staff Senates.

Discussion of this topic was tabled and will continue at the next AP Senate meeting.

IG committee openings: Bookstore Advisory Committee (1 opening); Financial Aid (1 opening); Parking and Traffic (1 opening currently held by an AP faculty member, who will be asked if she wants to remain on that committee); AP Faculty Grievance (1 opening for someone in Academic Affairs, 1 for Student Affairs, and 1 for University Advancement). McCormick volunteered to take on the Bookstore but would also see if someone else in the library would rather have it. Meghan Worrell (TRC) volunteered to take Financial Aid. Jessica Ireland (Library) will be asked if she wants to remain on Parking and Traffic. Spradlin volunteered to take the Academic Affairs seat for the AP Faculty Grievance Committee; Crasha Perkins volunteered for the seat for Student Affairs; Claud was going to ask Sandra Bond if she wanted to continue to stay on for University Advancement.

Faculty salary adjustments: last year, T&R faculty received them and they were based on salary compression, inversion, and gender/equity. AP faculty are up next for their salary inequity study but nobody is working to get it moving. We need to create a document to submit to the Provost and Cabinet, asking that the study be done (not by AP Senate). A sub-committee has been formed to work on that; Oakes will review the draft: Ashlee Claud, Donna Spradlin, Laura Noll, Theresa Burriss.

November and December meetings have been moved. They are now November 13 and December 11. Meeting time is still 10 AM; assumed meeting location is Bonnie 249/250.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.