

Minutes of the Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate: Oct. 14, 2014

Senators in attendance: Ashlee Claud, Elizabeth McCormick, Sandra Bond, Dan Waidelich, Alixx Guynn, Chad Wall, Loretta Estes, John Leonard, Lisa McDaniel, Anthony Byrd, Donna Spradlin

Senators unable to attend: Ed Oakes, Geoff Whtie, Phil Crigger

1. Welcome. Meeting started at 10:30. Minutes from the September 9 meeting were approved.
2. Old business:
 - a. No update on the AP Faculty Handbook
 - b. Internal Governance Reform update: the task force has asked the three Senates to align their mission statements. Faculty Senate Governance sub-committee is now picking up the work. Its goal is to reduce the number of committees on campus from 44 to between 12 and 14.
 - c. Work-Life Balance Initiative: tried to have a meeting to create a task force. Not all members could attend that meeting , so the meeting did not take place and a new meeting has not yet been scheduled. This is open to all who want to be on it; contact Ashlee Claud if you are interested.
3. New business:
 - a. Salary Study Committee: AP Senate has received permission to do the preliminary research. There will be no consultant hired to help. Brogdon and JaRenae Whitehead, Claud, and three other senators have volunteered to work on this. The committee is not limited to senators but you do need to remember that it is for the good of all AP faculty, not just individuals. Donna Spradlin (Academic Affairs) and Sandra Bond (Student Affairs) volunteered, along with Loretta Estes and Anthony Byrd.
 - b. SGA resolution on a smoke-free campus: The SGA is asking for the support of the AP, Staff, and Faculty Senates for their resolution to make RU a smoke-free campus. Their resolution states that there are 704 universities in the U.S. which are smoke-free; question: how many are private? Is there a public institution in Virginia which has done this? Is this even legal? Consideration: the number of staff who smoke and the attrition factor; what about visitors? Chad Wall asked how enforceable this policy would be and mentioned that while RU is a dry campus, it still hosts events at which alcohol is served. Alcohol consumption by undergraduates is illegal but smoking is not. Suggestion: change the 25-foot distance for smoking from "building" to "common areas," which would include areas like the fountain. The resolution was recycled from one which never got far in 2012 and it still cites a November 2012 start date; even if they now mean 2014, that's too soon. Students were polled but employees were not. University has a smoking cessation program that needs to be promoted and possibly extended to students. Suggestion: assign certain spots on campus for smoking. There is a New York Times article about the Georgia universities banning smoking; each campus is left to implement and enforce the policy. John Leonard, Tracy Mattson, Jaclyn Gilbert, Carrie

Silliman and Ashley Claud will put together a response that has recommendations and suggestions for an edited version of the resolution.

- c. Faculty Senate motion on Fall break: the University Executive Committee (UEC) met and gave a counter-proposal: in the eighth week of classes, the Monday would be Fall Break and Tuesday would be a reading day ahead of the mid-terms on Wednesday. Labor Day would be added as another day off.

4. Next meeting: November 11 at 10:30 in the Bonnie Combo Room. Joe Carpenter will be speaking about RU's new marketing and branding efforts. Tracy Mattson brought up the Veterans' Day ceremony that same day (10:30 for refreshments and 11:00 for the ceremony) so the AP Senate meeting will consider meeting at 9:30 that morning.

5. Meeting adjourned at 11:35.