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College of Arts & Sciences Council Meeting : 2009 : 10 : 06

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College of Arts and Science Faculty Council Meeting

October 6, 2009

MINUTES

Prepared by Thomas Smith

Council Members Present: Jill McCracken, Susan Allen, Tom Hallock, Ella Schmidt, Thomas Smith, Martine Fernandes. Many faculty attended as well.

The CAS faculty council hosted the first of a series of discussions in the college about research.

Reaffirmation of the College Mission Statement

First, the assembled faculty reaffirmed unanimously the mission of the college as outlined in our college bylaws:

<http://www.stpete.usf.edu/coas/documents/CASBylaws.pdf>

We feel the emphasis on research in the CAS bylaws complements nicely the overall goal and strategy of USFSP (Goal 4) to:

- Create a vibrant culture of faculty research and creative scholarship
- Promote and support undergraduate research as a meaningful aspect of campus life
- Promote and support graduate student research
- Enhance and support research and scholarly collaborations with community partners

http://www.stpete.usf.edu/academics/general_information/mission.htm

Concerns about the Neglect of Research and Research Infrastructure

A number of faculty members shared their concerns about the lack of emphasis on research on our campus as well as the feeble research infrastructure on our campus:

- Recent discussions about the USF system seem to discount research at USFSP
- The public outreach by USFSP – marketing, PR, student recruitment – gives little attention to research.
- Lack of institutional effectiveness with regard to research
- Research funding
- Balancing research, teaching and service

Invitation to Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs / Research Norine Noonan and Dean Frank Biafora

In light of these concerns, the assembled faculty voted unanimously to invite Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs / Research Norine Noonan and Dean Frank Biafora to attend our next meeting of the CASFC to discuss research. In advance of that meeting, the council will compile suggestions on how to promote the research mission in our college and on the campus.

Appendix I – Research at USFSP

Promoting Research at USFSP

- Find out how we're doing. The Strategic Plan document for 2003-2008 show no accountability measures since 2003-2004. Do we have data on faculty productivity? Books? Articles? Creative works? What do the various citation indices say about research at USFSP?
- We're more than just a pretty campus. Make research, including undergraduate research, part of our pitch to potential students in advertising, on our website (research is invisible on the prospective student pages), in movie theater ads. Highlight our scholars. Lure excellent students. Please parents.
- Survey the faculty every other year to assess faculty research needs.
- Meet with individual faculty members, especially promising young faculty who we can build around. Ask: "What can USFSP do to help support your research?"
- Honor the research investments and develop the research infrastructure outlined in the Strategic Plan.
- Hire an experienced grant writer.
- Develop relationships with foreign universities for the purpose of faculty (and student) exchange and research. Are there any agreements currently in place?
- Pressure Barnes & Noble to sell and display faculty books. They won't keep our (paperback) books in stock.
- Institute course releases for research. Many faculty need time more than anything else. Within our current load it's quite feasible to create "pockets" of research time. Offer competitive grants for "research semesters."
- Think of grants not as isolated events, but as providing data to sustain research moving forward.
- Host high school students and community on campus for the undergraduate research symposium.

- Stress quality over quantity. A good investment. Quality articles will have a longer half-life.
- Faculty should support and encourage each other's research. Test out new ideas at regular research colloquia.

Questions

1. As the USF "system" crystallizes, what is the role for research at USFSP?
2. What is the VCAA currently doing to raise money for research on the campus? Are there plans to actively raise money for the college/campus? What is the relationship between tenure expectations and institutional support for research?
3. What happened to the USFSP competitive research grants?