
College of Arts and Sciences: College Council
Meeting Minutes

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CASFC

Nov. 10, 2009

Minutes

Faculty Council Meeting with Regional Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Norine Noonan and

CAS Dean Frank Biafora

Attended by: The CAS faculty Council and faculty members of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Business and Education Colleges including: Thomas Smith, Martine Fernandes, Ella Schmidt, Thomas Hallock, Kathryn Arthur, Jill McCracken, Susan Allen; Mark Pezzo, Pat Scott, Two Student Government Representatives, Mark Durand, Bob Darden, Cynthia Leung, Barnali Dixon, Hugh Lafollette, Michiko Otsuki, Carter Thomas, Richard Smith, et al.

Date: Tuesday Dec 8, 2009 12 pm

Topic: Promoting Research at USFSP

At the meeting we presented the following issues of concern to CAS faculty concerning research to Dr. Noonan and Dr. Biafora

- 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?
 - K. Arthur and Pat Scott offered that this information was collected and is available through the Research Council
- 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.
 - Dr. Noonan seemed favorable to increasing our visibility, but was cautious about advertising ourselves as "research" and suggested we state we are a "Community of scholars that value teaching". Although she did say it was up to the faculty to decide what we are about. Dr. Genshaft is one of our greatest supporters.
- Survey the faculty every other year to assess faculty research needs.
 - Not addressed.
- Meet with individual faculty members, especially promising young faculty who we can build around. Ask: "What can USFSP do to help support your research?"
 - Not addressed.

- Honor the research investments and develop the research infrastructure outlined in the Strategic Plan.
 - Not addressed.
- Hire an experienced grant writer or someone to help with grant facilitation. Also concern by faculty concerning the fact that our director of research was not replaced.
 - Dr. Noonan stated that we do not have the finances to replace that position and that it is unlikely that we will receive this type of support in the future. She also pointed out that none of our faculty are producing grants that cover their salary.
- Develop relationships with foreign universities for the purpose of faculty (and student) exchange and research. Are there any agreements currently in place?
 - Not addressed.
- Pressure Barnes & Noble to sell and display faculty books. They won't keep our (paperback) books in stock.
 - Not addressed
- 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."
 - Dr. Noonan stated that faculty are responsible for 12 hour teaching load. Dr. Biafora stated that this would have to be worked out through each department to ensure that all courses were taught and all credit hours maintained on a department level.
- 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.
 - The University is going to pay for posters that our student present concerning their research at conferences.
- 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.
- Increase the number of graduate programs on campus
 - Dr. Noonan stated that we are a master's level institution and that graduate programs tend to not make any money for the institution.

Questions

1. As the USF "system" crystallizes, what is the role for research at USFSP?

Dr. Noonan explained that the State System only recognizes USF and not USFSP as a separate institution which is being worked on. USF wants to be a member of the AAU and is the PHD producing institution. USFSP is a master's intuitions and our grants must go through the USF system for IRB compliance and grant administration. We have 8% of the students in the USF system and have \$6 million in research.

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?

Faculty suggested Wit and Wisdom and Cap and Gown fund. Dr. Noonan indicated that these types of programs were not good at providing any funding

3. What is the relationship between tenure expectations and institutional support for research?
 - a. Not addressed
4. What happened to the USFSP competitive research grants?

In summary, Dr. Noonan suggested that we bring our concerns to the faculty Research Council and Faculty Senate for further discussion.