
USF St. Petersburg Faculty Senate Meetings:
Minutes

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2-24-2006

USFSP Faculty Senate Meeting : 2006 : 02 : 24 : Minutes

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ST. PETERSBURG
Faculty Senate Meeting
Friday, February 24, 2006 8:10AM
Library Conference Room – 3rd floor

Present: Ambe Njoh, Jim Fellows, Deb Henry, Ron Hill, Deanna Michael,
Kim Stoddard, Kathy Weedman
Absent: David Naar
Guests: Cyndie Collins, Chair Academic Awards
Mark Durand, RVC Academic Affairs

Announcements

Mark announced that Deans have their summer budgets. If advisors recommend more class sections due to student demand, the administration has funds to support that need.

Old Business

USFSP representative to the USF Tampa Senate

Senators were to query their constituents on whether USFSP should send a faculty representative to the USF Tampa Senate, given the autonomy and equal status of the USF SP Senate. Kim and Deanna reported that they received only four responses from members of their college. The majority did not feel it necessary to send a representative. Jim had the opportunity to speak to some of his faculty colleagues, none of whom were in favor of sending a representative. CAS faculty have not had the opportunity to pursue this issue yet. One of the concerns is funding opportunities. The consensus was that USF SP faculty should continue to apply for any funds that might be available regardless of the USF campus source. Mark also reported that one of the SACS recommendations was that representation on the board of Trustees should rotate among the USF system universities in order to ensure fairness. The Academic Affairs Council is supporting this.

College level awards for part-time teaching faculty

Colleges are finalizing details on the college-level awards. Deans are preparing plans to present to college councils.

Teaching assignments

Deanna reviewed CBA documents and NCATE materials for possible references to teaching assignment criteria. The new CBA describes three different promotion levels for non-tenured instructor positions. Other than stating the distant learning courses need to be considered, the NCATE is rather short on details. Ron described two tracks used by business colleges; one being a clinical track and the other being a tenured research track. Contracts can vary in length. The Senate will continue to gather information.

While on the subject of the CBA, Deanna reported that the faculty voted last week on the new agreement and contract changes go to the Board of Trustees now. Benefits for domestic partners did not make the cut this time. After reviewing some of the problems that have occurred in attempts to address this issue, the union wants to make sure the issue is handled in an appropriate way.

Faculty Senate/Council Survey

The Senate identified three main areas of concern of the faculty as a result of this survey; collegiality, the need for more research time and support, and that the Senate needs to maintain its independence from the administration. Collegiality is a difficult behavior to dictate however the Senate has agreed that any opportunities to foster collegial spirit will be encouraged by the members. The Senate is exploring criteria for teaching assignments that directly relates to availability of research time and will continue to address support issue. The portions of the survey will be posted to the Faculty Senate web site.

New Business

Minutes

The Senate approved the minutes from 2/10/06 meeting with a minor correction.

Faculty Service Awards

Cyndie Collins brought up some concerns that have been expressed by faculty over who is eligible for the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Service. The eligibility criteria limited the award to tenured, tenure-earning, or library faculty. This description excludes other full time faculty on campus who also provide excellent service to the campus and community. The Senate agreed that eligibility should extend to any full time faculty member. There was some discussion about the original concept for the award. Mark Durand clarified that the intent of the award was to honor a "lifetime" of service. Senators agreed that the awards committee should be able to use their discretion when evaluating service records of applicants. Jim moved that the eligibility language be changed to include all full-time faculty; Kathy seconded. All members voted in favor of the change. Jim made a second motion to delete the fourth criteria listed under the Application Process that stated that greater emphasis will be placed on service provided in the last two calendar years. Kim seconded the motion; all voted in favor of that change. Cyndie Collins will make the necessary changes to the existing document and update the web site.

Committee on Committees

Kim reported that all student vacancies on committees have been filled. She notified the Senate that the Faculty Committee on Enrollment Management has a vacancy for a CAS faculty member. Kathy will try to identify a member for that committee.

Faculty Salaries

Ambe reported on a discussion within CAS on the distribution of salary over a 9-month period. He asked if there was any interest in the other colleges in changing the distribution to spread out over 12 months or having an option to do so. Jim and Kim shared that, tax-wise, it is to the economic advantage of the faculty member to stay with the 9-month schedule. Kathy also added that if any faculty member wishes to spread out their pay, they might want to contact the USF Credit Union who has information on that option.

General Education Committee

Mark stated the pressing need to begin a review of the general education courses and requested that the Senate create or name a committee to do this. The Senate decided that the Undergraduate Council is the appropriate group to perform this task.

College Reports

College of Arts and Sciences

The search committee for Dean met and conducted phone interviews. There are also several faculty searches underway including two math positions, two English, criminology, political science and graphic design. The discussion concerning compensation for coordinators of programs is on-going.

Mark shared that we are in a transition phase with respect to coordinators/chairs. Issues of responsibility, authority and compensation will be coming up across the university as we grow. Kathy remarked that during the recent CAS retreat, the faculty stated that they really feel the need for more structure. Kim added that she supports the concepts and hopes that improvement in communication will result and hopes that the CAS can provide a model for the other colleges.

College of Business

The search committee for a new Dean of the college met for the first time on February 13th. The advertisement for the position was scheduled to go out February 24. The Chair of the committee, Chris D'Elia, outlined a fairly ambitious time table. The College-level Tenure & promotion procedures have been finalized and approved in a 9 to 2 vote by tenured faculty. Annual reviews are on-going.

College of Education

The COE faculty searches are in progress.

Library

There are two faculty searches ongoing. The search committee for the Head of Access Services interviewed a candidate on the 23rd. A position for a reference librarian is currently being advertised. Annual review committee is meeting soon to complete those reviews.

Ron Hill had another commitment and left the meeting at 10:05 AM.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM.

Next meeting

March 24, 2006 Library Conference Room, 3rd floor at 8:10 AM

Due to the lack of any pressing business and the unavailability of more than one Senator, there will be no meeting on March 10.

Future meetings:

April 7 & 21

Prepared by Deb Henry