

Faculty Council Agenda & Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 14, 2017

228A Chambers Bldg

2:30-4:30pm

Attendees: Dr.'s Liza Conyers, Diandra Prescod, Leticia Oseguera, David Monk, Uju Anya, Karly Ford, Marcela Borge, Ashley Patterson, Richard Hazler, and Ashley McCoy (GSC Rep)

A quorum was reached to conduct official business.

1. Minutes of the Preceding Meeting (From November 16, 2017) -- *minutes were approved.*

2. Announcements by the Chair

2.1. Update on Chair-Elect Position

2.2. Update on suggestions and resources related to preparing promotion and tenure materials

3. Communications to the Council

3.1. Undergraduate Student Council Updates

3.2. Graduate Student Council Updates (Ashley McCoy)

3.2.1. Research Island – March 24 & 25 – looking for faculty to present at this event.

4. Comments by the Dean of the College

4.1. **Faculty Searches:** Eleven searches are in progress for tenure-line faculty members. Four are bringing candidates to campus before the holidays. The hope is to begin making offers next week. The remaining searches will be bringing their finalists to campus after the new year. We're also planning to announce the appointment of the Department Head for EPCSE before the end of the year.

4.2. **Work Lion:** Work Lion has launched and the implementation seems to have gone smoothly. Any questions should be directed to Jerry Henry or Megan Houser.

4.3. **Science Education Wing Renovation:** The project scheduled to begin after the end of this semester. Regrettably it will involve further disruption in the Advising Center due to unavoidable HVAC needs. We are working to minimize the disruption.

4.4. **Lecture Halls in Chambers:** University is planning to renovate the 2 lecture halls in Chambers sometime this summer. This is not a College of Education expense.

4.5. **Future CoE Construction:** Conversations are in progress regarding a future renovation of the north side of Chambers Building. This would be a large project that may need to proceed in phases. We're looking at designs that would enhance community building. One of the goals is to build on the successes we're enjoying in the Krause Studios for Innovation. We're currently in conversation with the architects about the design. Phase 1 may involve a redesign of the dean's area along with one of what we've been calling the bowling alley leading to the men's room on the second floor of Chambers Building.

4.6. **Distinguished Professor Selection Process:** Five nominations have been received and the advisory committee for the appointment of two new Distinguished Professors is at work reviewing them.

4.7. **AERA:** AERA will be in New York City this year. The Penn State reception will be Saturday evening at the Rubin Museum of Art on 17th Street. Please mark your calendars.

- 4.7.1. **Bus to AERA:** Have decided not to charter a special bus to AERA given the substantial cost and the availability of regularly scheduled low cost bus service directly to and from State College and NYC.
- 4.8. **Staff Advisory Committee:** We are beginning to discuss the possible formation of a Staff Advisory Committee. Samantha Walker in EPCSE is serving on a University level version of this and is helping us understand what would be involved. A number of colleges have committees of this kind. We're currently doing some benchmarking.
- 4.9. **Supplemental Materials for P&T Reviews:** We do not currently provide guidance to candidates for promotion and tenure about what is expected to be in their supplemental materials. This gives rise to lots of variation across departments and generates anxiety for candidates. It may be wise for us to offer some guidance. We discussed this at the last Advisory committee meeting and a first draft has emerged for the faculty Council to review. (Drafted Guidelines handout provided)
- 4.10. **Commencement Speaker:** As previously announced, Michelle Cooper will be our commencement speaker in the spring. She was originally scheduled to be our speaker for last year, but succeeded at adopting a child and this changed her plans. She has graciously agreed to re-up as our speaking for the spring of 2018. Dr. Cooper is the President of the Institute for Higher Education Policy. Suggestions for future commencement speakers are always welcome.

5. Reports of Standing Committees

- 5.1. Faculty, Staff, Student Concerns (Richard Hazler)
- 5.1.1. Need one person from each department. Please help recruit from your departments. Committee needs to review faculty/staff award nominations in early spring.
- 5.2. Curricular Affairs (Diandra Prescod)
- 5.2.1. Reviewed proposal for change in RHS 300 course.
- 5.3. Graduate Studies and Research Policy (Soo-yong Byun)
- 5.3.1. Evaluation of fixed-term category R requests. Support letters will need to provide more compelling reasons for "R" status by speaking specifically to the qualities that would suggest they should be "R" status.
- 5.4. Technology (Marcela Borge)
- 5.4.1. Courtney Lynch has joined the Technology Committee.
- 5.4.2. Larry Ragan & Brad Zednek came to the last meeting. COIL is now part of the Ed Technology Network. Artificial Intelligence is the focus of the Ed Tecnology Network. They have many opportunities for funding including the Nittany AI challenge. The Nittany AI Challenge is an 8 month project. Will be looking for faculty participation.
- 5.4.3. Innovative Uses of Technology proposals were reviewed 3 received, 1 funded.

6. Reports of Special and Ad-Hoc Committees

7. News from the Faculty Senate (Julia Plummer) – *no report*

8. Unfinished Legislative Business

8.1. Fixed-term College Level Promotion Committee Election Process

- 8.1.1. One response to the memo to the FT faculty was reviewed.
- 8.1.2. Agreed to add to process to reach out to the candidates selected after the first round to see if they are willing to serve if elected and also noting that if they plan to go up for promotion that they will not be able to serve on the committee.
- 8.1.3. Discussed having the first level of elections completed by the end of January.
- 8.1.4. FC Chair will send out a memo to FT members alerting them to the revised committee formation process and that nominations will be sought in early January.
- 8.1.5. What if someone wants to go up for promotion before the 5 year timeline?
 - 8.1.5.1. AC21 and the College policy need to be reviewed for consistency and more discussion will need to occur prior to responding to this question.

9. New Legislative Business

- 9.1. Discussion of faculty workload – faculty council members are seeking feedback from their departments and will be reported on at the February meeting.
- 9.2. Should FT guidelines be developed for our resident FT faculty members?
 - 9.2.1. After a lengthy discussion it was determined that guidelines for the College's resident fixed-term faculty members need to be developed. Liza Conyers will reach out to Greg Kelly and Jerry Henry regarding the creation of guidelines.

10. Forensic Business

- 10.1. COE engagement in PSU sustainability efforts

11. Comments and recommendations for the good of the College

**Next Faculty Council Meeting: January 18, 2018
2:30-4:30 PM, 228A Chambers**