

Ohio University Faculty Senate
Monday, December 9, 2013
Room 235, Margaret M. Walter Hall, 7:10 p.m.
Minutes

Faculty Senate Chair Elizabeth Sayrs called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

In attendance:

College of Arts and Sciences: E. Ammarell, N. Bernstein, C. Elster, S. Hays, K. Hicks, G. Negash, R. Palmer, B. Quitslund, L. Rice, A. Rouzie, K. Uhalde, S. Wyatt

College of Business: K. Hartman

College of Fine Arts: C. Buchanan, V. Marchenkov, E. Sayrs, D. Thomas

College of Health Sciences and Professions: T. Basta, A. Sergeev

Group II: D. Duvert

Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine: S. Walkowski

Patton College of Education: G. Brooks, D. Carr, B. Vanderveer

Regional Campus—Chillicothe: B. Trube

Regional Campus—Eastern: J. Casebolt

Regional Campus—Lancaster: S. Doty, L. Trautman

Regional Campus—Southern: D. Marinski

Regional Campus—Zanesville: A. White

Russ College of Engineering: B. Stuart, G. Suer

Scripps College of Communication: B. Bates, B. Reader, J. Slade

Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs: none present

Excused: RA Althaus, G. Holcomb, S. Inman, B. Sindelar, J. Wolf

Absent: C. Bartone, L. Black, T. Luce, S. Patterson, A. Ruhil, Z. Sarikas, J. Taylor

Overview of the Meeting:

- I. President McDavis and Associate Provost for Faculty and Academic Planning Dewald
- II. Duane Starkey, Interim Chief Information Officer
- III. Roll Call and Approval of the November 4, 2013 Minutes
- IV. Chair's Report
 - General Education Task Force update—Beth Quitslund
 - Updates and Announcements
 - Upcoming Senate Meeting: January 13, 2014? or February 10, 2014
- V. Executive Committee
 - Resolution to Update Language on Faculty Senate Meeting Dates—Second Reading & Vote
- VI. Professional Relations Committee—Ben Bates

- VII. Educational Policy & Student Affairs Committee—Ruth Palmer
 - Resolution To Extend Excused Absences For Student Military Members Participating In Military Reserve Training Days—first reading
 - VIII. Finance & Facilities Committee—Ben Stuart
 - IX. Promotion & Tenure Committee—Joe Slade
 - X. New Business
 - XI. Adjournment
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VII. President McDavis & Associate Provost for Faculty and Academic Planning Dewald

- **President McDavis** provided updates on several ongoing issues:
 - The OHIO Guarantee: The University's guaranteed tuition pricing plan is on schedule to be implemented for the class entering in the fall of 2015, though it must be approved by the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees this winter in order to be ready for 2015 recruitment efforts. Preliminary discussions with Chancellor Carey were very positive, and more information will be shared with both him and the Trustees in January; OU will then know if more work is required to gain state approval.
 - The Higher Education Funding Commission has talked to all 37 public institutions and reviewed their plans, and funding decisions are underway, to be final by the end of December or start of January. There is still no control amount, so the Commission will present plans to the Governor at the \$350 million level (the amount two years ago) as well as at \$400 million and probably \$425 million.
 - House Bill 111: This bill has been amended, so that instead of mandating voting rights for student university trustees it permits each board to vote on whether to extend such voting rights. Student trustees would continue to be appointed by the Governor and to serve for 2-year terms. While they could not be disqualified from receiving scholarships or work study income from the university, voting rights would require them to comply with all ethics rules, including the submission of annual financial disclosures. The measure is still in discussion among House members, but if passed would go into effect in AY 2014-15.
 - Possible tweaks to the SSI formula are still under discussion, prompted in part by OU's unexpectedly high funding capture (due to graduation rates, the online nursing program, and other factors). McDavis hopes to give a final report to the Senate in January.
 - House Bill 231, introduced in July 2013, would allow boards of trustees to introduce campus policies permitting licensed handgun owners to carry handguns or store weapons in vehicles on campus. McDavis expressed disapproval, but indicated that a vote could come at any time.
- **Associate Provost Dewald** had a substantial number of reminders and updates.
 - The Ridges Advisory Committee meets for the first time at 3:00 on Friday, 12/13, on the 5th floor of Baker Center.
 - School and Departmental P&T decisions are due to candidates by Saturday, 12/14.
 - Grades are due by Wednesday, 12/18 at noon.

- Faculty Fellowship Leave applications are due to chairs and directors by the first day of spring term.
- Group II promotion criteria: Dewald thanked faculty for their work this semester. There is an FAQ page on the Provost's website.
- The Compensation Task Force prepared a preliminary report in October and will be finishing a final version soon for the Board of Trustees. Although it contains suggestions, it will not propose hard-and-fast rules.
- Deans were notified in the first week of December about one-time investment funds, about \$3 million in total.
- Ohio Signature Awards: This is a new, primarily merit-based scholarship program for the Athens campus designed to help recruit academically strong students.
- Board of Regents initiatives: OU is currently working on 3-Year Degrees; Choose Ohio First; Commercialization; Complete College Ohio; Internships and Co-ops; the Ohio Mathematics Initiative; and Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) with a Purpose.

Questions and Discussion:

Senators had several questions about the guaranteed tuition plan. In response to questions from **Joe Slade** and **Amy White**, McDavis clarified that it will apply to all degree-seeking students beginning at the Athens campus in or after fall 2015. Asked by Slade about the effect on OU's financials, the President said that it should lead to a more stable budgeting environment since tuition would be predictable for four years at a time. White wondered about the effects on non-traditional students; McDavis responded that some flexibility will be built into the system (e.g., for programs with unusually high hour requirements), but that the University also wants to encourage students to graduate in four years. Shorter time to graduation means lower costs for the students, he noted.

Ken Hicks wondered if there was a plan to handle low response rate for online student evaluations. Dewald said that the issues were recognized but that there was not yet a coordinated plan for increasing response rates. **Charlotte Elster** opined that online evaluations would probably always disproportionately draw responses from students with stronger feelings about the class. Other senators offered a number of ideas: Hicks suggested delaying grade access until evaluations are completed; **Sandy Doty** recommended a dedicated day in class for doing the online evals; **Steve Hays** suggested making evaluations available and useful to students in the manner of (for example) Amazon.com reviews; and **Ben Stuart** described his Department Chair visiting all classes to encourage and oversee evaluation completion (she promised to read all comments on the completed forms). McDavis applauded this solution, though **Albert Rouzie** pointed out that departments with hundreds of sections couldn't reasonably implement it. **Eugene Ammarell** remarked that he had been a student at institutions where evaluations were available to help students make class choices. **Assoc. Dean of Arts & Sciences John Gilliom** said that A&S had a committee thinking about some possible solutions, including review-style evaluations as well as a first set earlier in the semester (to allow students to influence ongoing classes) and embedding evaluations in Blackboard for more obvious access.

Asked by **Slade** about the replacement rate for Group I faculty after the ERIP losses during the budget downturn, Dewald said that he had the data but still needed to write the report.

VIII. Duane Starkey, Interim Chief Information Officer

- Background: Currently, undergraduates and alumni email is hosted by Microsoft Office 365, a cloud-based service, while employees and graduate students are in the on-campus Exchange system, using the 2007 version. An Exchange upgrade is necessary because, with the introduction of the 2013 version (after the 2010 version, which we skipped), 2007 will cease to be supported. OIT has been studying the advantages and disadvantages of upgrading the system on premises for employees and grad students or moving everyone to Office 365. The latter solution has come to be preferred.
- Advantages: Office 365 is nominally free, though support functions and add-ons cost money. Current account quotas are limited by server capacity onsite and are now set at 1 GB (this can be increased by contacting OIT); the default account size for the cloud-based system would be 50 GB. Cloud hosting would be safer for disaster recovery. The current mixed environment can be challenging for calendaring. Finally, there are potential infrastructure savings.
- Disadvantages: We would have limited flexibility in scheduling upgrades and changes. It can be difficult to communicate with Microsoft when there are issues. Finally, although costs are low (“free”) now, that may not be the case in the future, and exiting the system would be challenging once users have established 50 GB accounts.
- Conclusions: The migration to Office 365 is being planned, dependent on implied consent and feedback from the Faculty Senate (other senates have already had this presentation). The user experience should be very similar to that with the Outlook client, and slightly different from the Web Exchange. FTAG has approved the move and the OIT advisory group has been briefed.

Questions & Discussion:

There was some discussion of security. **Hicks** wondered about sharing the system with students because, for example, grading uses the same password as email. He also noted that the National Labs are not going to Microsoft because of unaddressed security concerns. Starkey said that Microsoft administration is probably less of a security risk than doing it in-house, though he conceded that monitoring might be easier with local servers. Office 365 is FERPA and HIPPA compliant, but not adequate for ITAR compliance.

A number of questions came up about the user experience. **James Casebolt** wondered if moving to the same system as undergraduate students would improve interface between emailing from one’s own account, from Blackboard, or from the Faculty/Advising List. OIT **Project Manager David Alexander** replied that a relay system like that used now would still be required for those functions. Starkey added that Office 365 does not support mailings to more than 10,000 recipients, though there are work-arounds. **Elster** wondered about forwarding from OU accounts to personal email, and was told that accounts should work the same way in the future that they do now. It was established, per **Slade**’s concerns, that major email disruptions at the University several years ago were probably home-grown problems, but **Senior Assoc. VP Joe Lalley** noted that there can occasionally be hiccups that affect access to email during the account migration. Migration normally takes about an hour, with employees notified in advance about when it would happen. Lalley also noted that it is important to carefully coordinate migration in order to preserve joint calendaring within units. The platform is the same for Macs and PCs, solving a problem with the current system noted by **Elizabeth Sayrs**.

Hays and **Casebolt** expressed some confusion about current spam filtering and the perceived eccentricities of the IronPort Quarantine system. Quirks with occasional messages from routine senders ending up there are the result of particular features of the message, such as strings of capital letters. Starkey said that OU would maintain its own spam filtering, which is superior to Microsoft's (Alexander added that nearly 90% of messages into OU's email system are screened out as spam and never seen by users).

Casebolt asked about the project's timeline. Implementation will probably begin after spring semester. OIT has identified a peer institution in Minnesota with a similar current system that is making the transition during spring, and hopes to learn from its experience before beginning our own migration.

Any concerns or ideas should be direct to Duane Starkey at starkey@ohio.edu, or can be routed through either Dave Alexander or Joe Lalley.

IX. Roll Call and Approval of the November 4, 2013 Minutes

Casebolt moved to approved the minutes, seconded by **Slade**. The minutes were approved by a voice vote.

X. Chair's Report

- General Education Task Force update—**Beth Quitslund**

The Task Force presented a set of undergraduate learning objectives to Faculty Senate in October; these have been distributed to colleges for comment, although not all colleges have yet reported back on their processes and results. With results in hand, the Task Force will revise the objectives and then forward them to EPSA so that they can come to the Senate for a vote of endorsement. The process for moving from goals to reform of the Gen Ed curriculum has not been decided, but the Task Force sees itself as a facilitator of a broadly-based, collaborative endeavor rather than as the primary curricular engineers. Quitslund emphasized that any change to General Education cannot result in a larger number of hours outside the major program; the idea is to use both specifically Gen Ed instruction and experience in the major to achieve the agreed-on outcomes more effectively.

The Task Force is co-chaired by Dean Bob Frank (A&S) and Greg Kremer (Russ); the other members are Assoc. Dean Beth Novak (Scripps); Beth Quitslund (A&S); Chao-Yang Lee (HS&P); David Thomas (Fine Arts); Gary Coombs (Business); Geoffrey Dabelko (Voinovich); Laura Harrison (Patton); Matthew Wanat (RHE); and Dean David Descutner (UNC).

- The faculty and staff experience survey: The instrument for this survey replacing the annual President and Provost evaluations has been approved by Institutional Research and is under review by the Provost's Office. Among many categories of questions of interest to the Senate, it includes a survey on benefits which is likely to be important as conversations about responses to the ACA go forward. The data can be aggregated by the company developing the survey, but only OU can publish it with the institution's name attached.
- Board of Trustees presentation: Sayrs will present to the Board during the January meeting, with details due for publication in the agenda on Jan. 3. She will probably bring up faculty retention and administrative numbers, but would like to hear thoughts (or see great graphs).

- Upcoming Senate Meeting: Scheduled for January 13, 2014, but *may* be canceled, depending on need.

XI. Executive Committee

- **Resolution to Update Language on Faculty Senate Meeting Dates—Second Reading & Vote**

This resolution allows for more flexibility in setting meeting dates, which has been problematic under the semester calendar. The resolution passed by a voice vote without discussion.

XII. Professional Relations Committee—Ben Bates

- The PRC entertained several requests from faculty, including removing the salary cap on overload teaching and the requirement that deans approve the use of facilitators for courses offered by eLearning. It declined to act on either. Asked to look into better security for the data on Digital Measures, the Committee determined that all data in Digital Measures is subject to open record laws and thus not in need of tight security.
- Questions about Group II promotion guidelines going forward will be jointly handled by PRC, P&T, and Assoc. Provost Dewald. The Regrouping Project (reforming faculty Group definitions and names) will go forward in spring; it was postponed until after the heat of the Group II promotion guidelines had passed.

VII. Educational Policy & Student Affairs Committee—Ruth Palmer

- Updates: In response to a request from Assoc. Provost Descutner, EPSA will be discussing the deficiency point system for transfer students. Also, **Women’s Center Director Susanne Dietzel** presented the online sexual assault prevention program to EPSA. There are remaining questions about when OU will require students to complete it and how to make sure they do. Dietzel is working with RAs and Student Life to make the program a success.
- **Resolution To Extend Excused Absences For Student Military Members Participating In Military Reserve Training Days—First Reading**

EPSA developed this resolution at the request of **Student Senate Veteran’s Representative Tyler Daniels**. Currently, military service requirements for reserve military personnel and veterans are not covered in the Handbook’s list of excused absences from class (ROTC has a different status). In addition to training, they sometimes need travel days that take them away from OU.

A senator pointed out that the resolution did not explicitly cover necessary travel days. Although travel should be covered by the same policy that applies to student athletes, there was some feeling that it was better to make the policy with regard to military service explicit so that faculty would understand it more clearly. When another senator pointed out that some classes are not compatible with a large number of absences even when excused, Sayrs noted that the Handbook permits faculty to limit the number of excused absences in a class. This resolution thus expands the kinds of absence that count as excused, but not necessarily the number allowed in any given class. There was some discussion of whether the Handbook should say that a student “should” or “can” obtain a written excuse to cover an absence: while such an excuse is necessary in some circumstances, some classes do not require students to account for absences at all.

VIII. Finance & Facilities Committee—Ben Stuart

Last spring, the Senate established RCM liaisons to each college or center, tasked with learning about and following up on RCM concerns among the faculty in that unit. Liaisons meet with Finance & Facilities at least twice per year. On Friday, 12/13, from 1–3 in Baker 239, John Day will give his full RCM presentation for the liaisons. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting virtually as a webinar should contact Stuart (stuart@ohio.edu).

IX. Promotion & Tenure Committee—Joe Slade

The last two cases to reach the P&T Committee have both involved promotion. The first was a denial at the department level nevertheless supported by the dean and the Provost. The Committee upheld the appeal and, in an attempt to avoid a special hearing committee, sent it back to the department for reconsideration. As the department has again denied, it will go to a hearing. The second case was denied by the dean, and will also be going to a hearing. These are the third and fourth P&T hearings scheduled this year.

X. New Business

There was none.

XI. Adjournment

Ruth Palmer moved to adjourn, seconded by **Slade**. The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.