

Faculty Senate Minutes for February 6, 2009

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: Both the December and January Faculty Senate minutes were approved without corrections. It was noted that minutes for this year are not being posted to the College website. The FS President will address this.

Academic Appeals Process: Karen Davis addressed the Faculty Senate on behalf of VPAA McCall, presenting a revised document that updates procedures for processing academic appeals.

Discussion centered on "Item 4: Appeal Process, Level 2" and questioned the need to involve a Campus Director in the appeals process. Bruce Fugate suggested that the last sentence under this section be amended to "If the issue(s) brought forward in the appeal are not resolved satisfactorily in this step, the student *and the professor* may then appeal to the Academic Appeals Committee (AAC) in Level 3." Karen will relay these observations to the VPAA and report back.

Semester Conversion: Nicole Roades addressed the Faculty Senate on behalf of VPAA McCall on a revised *Semester Conversion Overview* document. The revision was offered to address concerns expressed by the Faculty Senate at the January meeting.

After much discussion, a motion was made that the Faculty Senate acknowledge the *Semester Conversion Overview* document as an accurate reflection of what it will take to convert to semesters. This motion passed with ten (10) votes in favor; five (5) votes opposed; and three (3) votes cast in abstention.

A second motion was made that the Faculty Senate address a letter to the administration and BOT listing its concerns about the conversion process. This motion passed with 17 votes. There was one (1) vote to oppose and one (1) abstention.

Jon Davidson was nominated to draft this letter of concern. Faculty members are encouraged to contact Jon with issues they would like addressed in the letter.

Committee Reports:

- o **Curriculum:** Bill Horne advised that an Entrepreneurship Certificate proposal that recently came before the Curriculum Committee has been pulled by the VPAA.
- o **Academic Appeals:** No appeals are pending.

- **Adjunct:** no report.
- **Program Review:** no report.
- **Technology:** no report. The Technology Committee meets today. See added New Business Item below.
- **Assessment:** no report.
- **Transfer Module:** no report.
- **Board of Trustees:** no report.
- **Placement Test:** no report.
- **Sam Ladrach:** no report
- **Academic Support:** no report.
- **Health Insurance:** no report.
- **Calendar:** no report.
- **SSCC Foundation:** no report.
- **TAGS:** no report.
- **Ohio Faculty Senate:** no report.

Old Business:

- **Safety Committee – D. Hoffman** (NFP) did send out an e-mail on 01/07/09 noting that Dr. Stout responded on 01/02/09 to the concern of faculty regarding college wide safety issues, stating that “Our new HR Director will be in charge of safety. She begins work at SSCC on January 6. I will share your concerns with her. We need to give her a little time to get settled in the job, but I anticipate she will be ready to take action on key issues within a couple of weeks.”
- **Scholarship Committee – D. Hoffman** (NFP) did send a list of scholarship recipients for 2008 – 2009 on 01/07/09 to the SSEA distribution list.
- **OACC Statewide Symposium** – Six faculty members have volunteered to attend. More volunteers are welcome.

New Business:

- **Calendar Adjustments for Snow Days – Terry Flum**
A motion was made and passed to act upon Linda Chamblin’s 02/06/09 e-mail, whereby we request:
 1. Dr. McCall to officially extend Winter Quarter through exam week. Exams are optional.
 2. Dr. McCall to send a letter to all faculty (particularly adjuncts) and front-line employees stating that:
 - a) Winter Quarter has been extended through exam week.

- b) Faculty may, at their discretion, require their classes to meet during exam week as if it were a regular week of the quarter.
- c) Faculty may use techniques appropriate to their courses to compensate for the "snow days" and the possibility of "snow days" to come.
- o **Turnitin Demonstration – Louis Mays** offered a demonstration of Turnitin, a plagiarism detection service available to all full-time and adjunct instructors. If you missed Louis' demonstration, you may request from him an *Instructor Quick Start* handout. It is noted that several of our adjunct instructors attended today's Faculty Senate meeting to take advantage of this demonstration.
- o **IT Funding – Brenda Tilton** reported that the IT Department is overwhelmed with maintaining Blackboard. Funding for an additional IT staff member has not been made available, and Dennis Griffith, the IT Director, may propose that the college outsource Blackboard maintenance to UC. This would cost the college approximately \$50,000 annually.

It was pointed out that it would cost much less to hire someone internally and that faculty and students would be better served if control of Blackboard remained local.

A motion was made and passed that the Curriculum Committee will review the matter of the Online Course Fee: a fee put into place some time ago and intended to provide new funding to Academic IT so that this department could continue to service online courses.

A second motion was made and passed that the Faculty Senate President will – again – request that the VPAA address this apparent failure to direct online course fees to the Academic IT Department.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

"There is always an easy solution to every human problem – neat, plausible, and wrong."

–H. L. Mencken–