

Faculty Affairs Committee
Academic Senate

Minutes, 10/9/12

Present: Jennifer Sheridan Moss, Chair; Mary Cooney, Heather Dillaway, Kypros Markou, Debra Patterson, Elizabeth Puscheck, Mary Sengstock, Been Sood, Kate Beson, Student Liaison

Absent with Notice: Ronald Thomas, Anca Vlasopolos, Policy Liaison; Ewa Golebiowska, AAUP-AFT Liaison; Margaret Winters, Administrative Liaison

Absent: Jennifer Beebe-Dimmer, James Sondheimer

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM.
2. A meeting schedule was set for academic year 2012-2013:

November 13, 2012

December 18, 2012 - cancelled

January 15, 2013

February 19, 2013

March 5, 2013 - cancelled

April 9, 2013

Except for the meeting in March, each of these meetings comes the week after a full meeting of the Senate. All meetings will be 12-1 PM in F/AB 1270.

3. The committee discussed several topics on which we might focus this year:
 - Evaluation of Teaching. Committee members expressed concern about recent problems with the servers that analyze SETs, about online SETs, and about the lack of comparative data in which to view and understand SETs. The committee wishes further to explore how we judge teaching.
 - Consulting Policy. There is a lack of clarity in some departments/colleges as to which activities constitute consulting and which constitute research/creative activity; when these definitions change, those seeking tenure and/or promotion could be impeded. The committee will look at standards and policies at WSU and also other universities to see if it is possible to write more precise guidelines.
 - Online Education. Online teaching, in all aspects, continues to be a concern to faculty, particularly as more pressure is applied by the administration to take courses online.
 - Mentoring. While the Provost now says that mentoring is being taken seriously at WSU, many committee members expressed concern that there has been no discussion of what form mentoring should take, who is or is not mentored, and who should train mentors to work in the best interest of the

colleagues they mentor. There has likewise been no discussion of the potential pitfalls of mentoring relationships, i.e. the inequality of the two parties. We believe that training is in order, and we will investigate internal and external experts, as well as mentoring programs at other universities.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Sheridan Moss,
Chair