

Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2008; 9:00 am
1270 FAB

Present: K. Browne, W. Crossland (Chair), A. Goodman (AAUP/AFT Liaison), P. Jarosz, L. Keashly, K. Padmanabhan (Non-Senate), A. Popadic, L. Romano (Policy Committee Liaison), M. Sengstock.
Absent with notice: S. Calkins (Administration Liaison), P. Kernsmith, C. McNath (Student Council Liaison), R. Parnell, L. Puscheck, J. Wang
Absent: S. Putatunda.

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am.

1. *Approval of minutes of October 14, 2008.*
Approved with corrections.

2. *Prioritize projects for coming year:*

The committee ranked the priority of issues that it would take up in 2008-2009 by assigning the highest priority 1, the lowest priority 4. Eleven committee members responded. In order of highest to lowest priority the results were (total of ranking for each issue in parenthesis):

- a. Mentoring of faculty (19)
- b. Forum on financial issues relating to retirement (25)
- c. Handling behavioral problems in classrooms (30)
- d. Faculty club (35)

Professor Sengstock noted that SOAR might be a source of suggestions for possible forum speakers.

3. *Center for Academic Excellence in National Security Intelligence Studies (CAE)*

Professor Romano gave a brief background of the CAE which was discussed at a recent Policy Committee meeting. The Policy Committee invited Dean Kummner (Engineering) to provide additional information on the program, which is set up to encourage students to consider (or at least make them aware of) a career in the United States intelligence service. The CAE is funded by a five year grant from the CIA and is in the third year of the grant. Dean Kummner said that the CAE is not a center or program as defined under the relevant Board of Governors statutes and has no curriculum. For this reason the CAE has never been reviewed by a faculty committee. The CAE offers guidance to students on which courses to take to satisfy their program's guidelines. At the Policy Committee meeting there was concern expressed for WSU faculty who work on research in other countries: if WSU became known for having CIA connections, their research work might be made more difficult or even dangerous. Participants at the Policy Committee meeting also questioned whether or not faculty were consulted fully before being listed in the CAE website and brochure as participating in the program. The Policy Committee thought FAC, Student Affairs Committee and Curriculum and Instruction Committee should review the CAE.

The FAC attempted to define the problem for our committee to consider. Members were puzzled by the use of "Center for Academic Excellence" in the CAE's title when the program has no curriculum, has not informed anyone of their progress with students, is not confined to Engineering and was not approved as a "program" or center because it does not fall under BOG statutes. Furthermore, the FAC wondered how the CAE could advise students when they produce no list of courses that are acceptable to the program - only a list of skills sets and core competencies. The fact

that the CAE does not fall under normal WSU review processes or guidelines was bothersome in itself. For example, although the use of the word "Center" in the CAE title is mandated by the grant from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), it apparently is excluded from BOG statute oversight because the CAE is not supported by WSU funds, the grant that supports it is "temporary" and the grant agency (ODNI) demands the word in the title. However, the FAC had no intrinsic objections to the intelligence agencies promoting job opportunities on campus per se. The FAC thought that if this is a type of recruiting program for intelligence agencies, it should be titled unambiguously.

Professors Browne and Popadic cautioned that the FAC should focus on issues relating to faculty and let other committees deal with issues of program naming, structure, curriculum and students.

There was general agreement among the FAC members that concerns about the danger of CIA association with WSU for faculty doing research in other countries is minimal and that as long as the money from the grant was useful to support students, it does not seem different than accepting money from other governmental agencies such as the Department of Defense.

The FAC suggested that the three committees charged with review (FAC, Student Affairs Committee, Curriculum and Instruction Committee) hold a joint meeting and ask representatives from the CAE, who have day-to-day experience with the program, to meet with them (the Chair will look into this). By having a joint meeting each committee could address aspects of the review from its own area of responsibility. Members of all three committees would attend. The FAC will focus on faculty issues such as proper consultation of participating faculty groups. If the next FAC meeting is held prior to that joint committee meeting, we will discuss our input to the joint meeting then.

4. *Adjourn*

Meeting adjourned at 9:58.

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 10, 10:00 am, 1270 FAB [time is tentative]

As approved at the Faculty Affairs Committee meeting of December 10, 2008