

Faculty Affairs Committee
Academic Senate

Minutes, 11/13/12

Present: Jennifer Sheridan Moss, Chair, Kypros Markou, Elizabeth Puscheck, Mary Sengstock, Anca Vlasopolos, Policy Committee Liaison; Margaret Winters, Administrative Liaison; Delores Dungee-Anderson, Graduate Council Liaison

Absent with Notice: Mary Cooney, Heather Dillaway, Debra Patterson, James Sondheimer, Ronald Thomas, Ewa Golebiowska, AAUP-AFT Liaison

Absent: Jennifer Beebe-Dimmer, Beena Sood, Kate Beson, Student Senate Liaison

Guests: Hammid Siddiqui, Laura Woodward (SET office)

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM.
2. Minutes of the meeting from 10/9/12 were approved.
3. Hammid Siddiqui, who coordinates SET implementation and data, assisted by Laura Woodward, presented information on recent problems with the SET computers (their presentation, including Dr. Siddiqui's research on increasing SET response rates, is attached). Several issues relating to SETs were addressed:
 - Recently, the server which sends out SET emails erroneously sent out multiple SET reports to faculty. Many faculty expressed concern about the security of the servers which hold the SET data.
 - A message was immediately sent to faculty to erase these reports, as their data had not been checked and they were sent in error.
 - Committee members urged Dr. Siddiqui to send another message explaining that the SET data, which is stored on different servers than the email system, is secure. (this email was sent after our meeting)
 - Dr. Siddiqui explained the regular process of vetting SET data to insure that it is accurate.
 - The SET office is willing to provide data sets based on specific criteria to departments or colleges.
 - WSU's online response rate for SETs is lower than that of comparable universities. Dr. Siddiqui's research addresses this problem.
 - Some committee members expressed concerns about the timeliness of SETs. Dr. Siddiqui said that because the envelopes and forms still have to be picked up by departments, he has no control over when they arrive in departments.

It was suggested that materials be available earlier; studies have shown that SETs administered earlier in the semester yield the same results as those administered at the end of the semester.

- There was a discussion of how to evaluate small classes, independent studies, and music instruction classes, which are not currently evaluated through the SET system. WSU should look for models at other universities.
- There was a long discussion about the privacy of SET data. A committee under the direction of Dr. Winters will soon make a recommendation concerning the publication of SET data. It is hoped that students might be more inclined to complete SETs if they know that other students will be able to access the data.
- A number of committee members discussed the value of informal, mid-semester evaluations as a way to check on the progress of a class during the semester when it meets.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Sheridan Moss, Chair