

Minutes
Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting
24 March 2009; 10:00 am, 1270 FAB

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

1. *Call to order.*

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am.

2. *Approval of minutes of February 18, 2009.*

Approved without additional corrections.

3. *Forum on Retirement*

The chair thanked the many committee members who helped make the forum a success. There were 50 attendees at the forum, down from 80 last year. The forum was recorded and is available as a video stream from the Senate website. The committee received 22 feedback forms from participants: The forum was rated 3.9/5.0 with 5.0 being **◆Excellent◆**. Most (80%) thought their questions were answered effectively. 90% thought the forum was helpful for their retirement planning and all responding thought the forum should be repeated on a regular basis. One audience member suggested that the university look into a 5-year phased retirement period, which they said was common at other universities. This person also suggested that if two people are taking phased retirement in a unit, that the dean should allow the unit to hire another person to make up for the loss. Informal feedback to committee members regarding the WSU retiree stories was positive. Written feedback responses to the question **◆Which topics were of greatest interest?◆** included: Medical insurance (N= 7), pre-retirement financial planning (N = 4), long-term care (N = 3), managing money in retirement (N = 2). Other topics audience members would like to see addressed were varied: Social Security, Medicare, Trusts, long-term care, IRAs, asset allocation, savings strategies for retirement, evaluating financial planners. Furthermore, it was comforting to hear that the retirees held our Total Compensation and Wellness people in high esteem. They considered that the forum audience might have been lower this year because the forum topics were more specialized than last year's and forums were held two years in a row. The committee discussed the possibility of holding retirement forums in the future, how often to hold them and changes in format.

Prof. Popadic asked how many people retire each year. If it is a large number (>100) maybe it is worth doing a forum each year. [Total Compensation and Wellness says between 63 and 78, about half are represented by the AAUP/AFT.]

4. *Smoke-free campus proposal update*

The committee thought the survey could be strengthened in several ways: Phrase the questions more neutrally to sample people's beliefs about smoking. Questions should express the respondent's opinion on a rating scale whenever possible. All respondents should answer all the questions. The survey should lead off by asking how important smoking is to the respondent. Demographics should be left to the end of the survey. The committee will work on a revised version of the survey incorporating the suggestions from the FAC and forward it to the joint committee survey subcommittee.

5. *Mentoring*
Professor Puscheck was out of town. The report was postponed until next meeting.
6. Other business - Security on campus
The committee noted that security on campus is an issue of interest to the faculty for several reasons: How should emergencies be handled by faculty, how will faculty be notified of emergencies, how will budget cuts affect security on campus. The chair will ask Dr. Padmanabhan to bring a representative from Public Safety to our next meeting for a briefing on security measures and the opportunity for the committee to ask her/him questions.
7. **Next meeting: Wednesday April 15, 2009; 10:00 am, 1270 FAB.**
Future meetings: Tuesday, May 5.
8. *Adjourn.*
Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.

As approved at the Faculty Affairs Committee meeting of May 5, 2009