

Faculty Affairs Committee
February 25, 2014
Updated April 1, 2014

Present: Abhijit Biswas, Sherylyn Briller, renee hoogland, John Vander Weg, Ellen Tisdale, Lobelia Samavati

Absent: Elizabeth Puscheck, Linda Beale, Derek Wildman, Judith Floyd

Absent with notice: Poonam Arya, Ewa Golebiowska, Mary Sengstock, Beena Sood, Delores Dungee-Anderson

The meeting was called to order at 12:35
Approval of Minutes: Unanimous

Discussion Regarding Mentorship Survey:

Vander Weg mentioned that the initial survey had a very low return and noted that since “mentorship” is in place, now it might be a good idea to re-implement the survey. In response to Biswas’ question regarding how to re-implement the survey Vander Weg noted that the FAC could request the survey from CUS and start re-implementation process by reviewing/editing the old survey.

In response to Tisdale’s question as to what will change because of the mentoring survey, Vander Weg noted that (1) the mentorship program could be improved, (2) the results could be fed into the PAD seminars that OVPR organizes, and (3) workshops could be offered for mentors.

Samavati noted that the idea of mentoring is good for the success of junior faculty. Briller noted that her department views mentorship as critical to success of new faculty. In response to questions by Biswas and Samavati, Briller noted that creating a formalized relationship between the mentor and the mentee has worked well for her department, and that this formal relationship is determined during the time of hire. Briller also noted that mentors are active in offering research, teaching, and service to their mentees in her department. Briller also mentioned that to understand “what works” we need to conduct qualitative research.

Hoogland mentioned that it might be a good idea to send request a number of chairs/departments for a one-page description of how mentoring is being conducted in their departments.

Based on the above discussions, the following questions were proposed for the short (qualitative) survey:

1. What do you do in terms of mentorship in your department?
2. What do you do in terms of mentoring junior faculty in your department?

3. The Faculty Affairs Committee is considering conducting an update of the mentoring survey. Please list a few issues/questions you would like the survey to cover.

The committee decided that Biswas will write to the Senate Chair, Lou Romano and request him to include the issue of mentoring on the Policy Committee Agenda to bring it up to the Provost. Vander Weg said that he would discuss the mentoring issue at the Council of Deans.

Old Business

Vander Weg mentioned that there was no update on the 2N Committee. No names were recommended by the AAUP.

Biswas reported that the FAC still does not have a student member.

The meeting time for the March 21 meeting was set at 1:30.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:30

Respectfully submitted,

Abhijit Biswas
Chair