

TO: Seymour J. Wolfson, President, Academic Senate
FROM: W. J. Crossland, Chair, Faculty Affairs Committee
SUBJECT: Final Report for 2009-2010
DATE: May 17, 2010

The Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) of the Academic Senate met monthly between September and May, except for the month of October.

The September 29, 2009 meeting:

- The FAC reviewed the 2008-2009 FAC's suggestions for topics (including should there be a faculty club, further consideration of mentoring and further consideration of behavioral problems in the classroom).
- In regards to the continuing consideration of a smoke-free campus proposal and a survey on smoking carried out in the Spring of 2009, the FAC reaffirmed the position that Wayne State should first try enforcing the current restrictions on outdoor smoking before implementing a more restrictive policy.
- The FAC also discussed possible topics for consideration during the academic year: Expansion of previous considerations of mentoring of junior faculty, problems with the performance of Blackboard (Bb) and Pipeline, distribution of grant information throughout the university.
- A member of the committee also voiced a concern about loss of merit review information passing from the department to the college level committee in the School of Medicine.
- There was also some discussion of an inquiry from a faculty member as to why one of the recommendations of a 1995 Academic Senate report on Student Evaluation of Teaching was not implemented. This last issue was referred to the Curriculum and Instruction Committee by the Senate President.

The November 17, and December 15, 2009 meetings:

- There was continuing discussion on the topics raised in the September meeting including the performance of Bb and Pipeline. It was decided to hold a joint meeting with Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee (FSST) regarding problems with Blackboard.
- There was also further discussion of how to avoid loss of data passed between merit review committees and what might be explored in additional discussions of mentoring.

The January 26, 2010 meeting:

- Professors Puscheck and Acsadi noted the variability in mentoring across the campus and discussed the need for gathering information about faculty members' understanding of what mentoring is, what it can do for faculty, how to go about mentoring and in learning administrators' attitudes toward mentoring. They suggested carrying out a campus wide survey to gather data on these questions and agreed to present a draft of the survey at the March meeting.
- A joint meeting with FSST was set up for February 17, 2010 at the Computing and Information Technology (C&IT) headquarters to discuss problems with Bb.
- Final discussion was held on the loss of merit data between review committees (a motion to draft language for a recommendation did not receive support).

- The draft report of the smoking survey was reviewed. Edits and queries were compiled and sent on to the Elections Committee.

The February 16, 2010 meeting:

- The FAC continued its discussion of the smoking survey draft report and suggested that the FAC chair make the FAC's reasons for opposing the smoke-free campus proposal clear at the upcoming March Academic Senate meeting.
- The FAC also drew up a list of concerns regarding Bb for the joint committee meeting with FSST.

Joint meeting with FSST

This meeting was held February 17, 2010 in 5925 Woodward (C&IT headquarters), including CIO Joe Sawasky (Administration Liaison to FSST), deputy CIO Patrick Gossman and WSU Police Chief Tony Holt. The meeting was chaired by Judith Whittum-Hudson (Chair Joe Artiss was ill).

- Patrick Gossman demonstrated a new video monitoring system managed by C&IT for the WSU police department. The maneuverable outdoor video system can be used to zoom in on suspicious activity. Both outdoor and indoor monitoring systems will be integrated into a single system that is actively monitored. New software is being installed that can screen archival footage stored on campus to look for images containing people of interest.
- Chief Holt and others noted the importance of convincing the parents of prospective students that campus security is up-to-date.
- Members of both the FSST and FAC raised questions about the performance of Bb and Pipeline, especially during the beginning of the Fall Semester. CIO Sawasky said that although faculty satisfaction was high with the previous version of Bb, implementation of the new version presented several new problems. Unexpectedly, the new version required more computer power, which the servers could not handle last fall. C&IT has increased the server capacity for Bb, made several software updates and added 2.5 FTE positions to the help desk to solve problems for faculty and students.
- The CIO appealed to the faculty and staff to help test new versions of Bb before their implementation.
- The FAC gave the CIO a list of issues that had been brought up during the fall meetings. C&IT responded to all the issues before the next FAC meeting.
- The CIO responded to several issues that were brought up by members of the FSST and FAC during the meeting.

The March 23, 2010 meeting:

- The meeting mainly considered a rough draft of a mentoring survey from Profs. Puscheck and Acsadi. The questions deal with junior faculty members experience with mentoring, need and expectations for mentoring, ways in which WSU could facilitate mentoring. Suggestions were made as to content and format. A revised draft will be examined at the April 20, 2010 meeting.

The April 20, 2010 meeting:

- The committee discussed the revised draft of the mentoring survey and suggested additional changes.
- In response to Professor Mateika's question as to why the storage capacity of individual's e-mails in the School of Medicine (SOM) is so small, it was noted that the Wayne Webmail server (Wayne Connect) has a multigigabyte storage capacity for individuals. Furthermore, Professor Yamazaki pointed out that the SOM needs to maintain its own control over clinical and research faculty to be vigilant for HIPPA violations. For this reason the SOM e-mail server will not forward e-mails to another server. The SOM can also e-mail all users on its server, a feat difficult to accomplish using university access ids because so few of the medical school faculty members forward their WSU e-mail to the medical school server.

May 11, 2010 meeting:

- No quorum was present
- The mentoring survey was reviewed and edited.
- The committee attempted to monitor the usage of links in the Faculty Tab in Pipeline during the 2009-2010 academic year by tabulating monthly reports supplied by C&IT from May 2009 through April 2010. However, C&IT notified the Chair that the data from October 31, 2009 through December 17, 2010 was irretrievably lost. The FAC viewed the data that was available for full months of use. It was decided to postpone any decision on dropping links in the Faculty Tab until an entire academic year of data has been gathered. A copy of the data supplied by C&IT is available from the Academic Senate office.

Suggestions for the 2010-2011 Faculty Affairs Committee.

1. Finalize the mentoring survey and send it to the faculty during the academic year.
2. Examine Faculty Tab usage in Pipeline. Obtain 12 consecutive months of use data for the Faculty Tab, either from January 2010 to December 2010 or May 2010 to April 2011. Determine what criteria will be used to drop links from the Faculty Tab, if the FAC decides to drop infrequently used links. Data compiled so far is available from the Academic Senate Office.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Crossland, Chair
Faculty Affairs Committee