FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Faculty Affairs Committee met at 3 pm on February 10, 2011 in 1270 FAB.

FAC members present: Jason Mateika; Regina Parnell; M. Sengstock. Liaisons Present: S. Calkins.

The meeting was called to order at 3 pm by Chair, Mary Cay Sengstock. A quorum was not present. Consequently, discussion of the issues could proceed, but decisions could not be reached.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss further the Provost's proposal to transfer the Department of Computer Science from CLAS to COE. The minutes from the Feb. 2, 2011, as well as reports from the Faculty Councils of both CLAS and COE were discussed.

Several new issues were presented in the reports, as well as in various communications from faculty members in the affected colleges to the FAC Chair.   Among these were:
  From COE:
  - A majority of the COE faculty was in favor of the move.
  - A majority of the COE faculty was concerned that there was inadequate quantitative data to provide a basis for decisions concerning the transfer, and recommended that additional information be obtained and provided to the participating faculty groups, either in developing or implementing the recommendation.
  From CLAS:
  - A large number of unresolved issues which might be experienced by CLAS with the move and which had not been resolved, or even discussed at length. These issues deserve more serious attention. Included among them are:
    o impact of any changes in group requirements on faculty resources in other departments;
    o impact on collaborations within CLAS and with other colleges, particularly CLAS departments, such as Mathematics, which depend heavily on Computer Science;
    o impact on students who wish to remain in CLAS;
    o impact on the ability of CLAS to attract research funds;
    o impact on funding and standing in CLAS: loss of indirect costs; loss of enrollments, retention, graduation rates, space, etc.
  - The Faculty Council of CLAS had requested that the Provost discuss these issues with them prior to implementing the decision; however, the Provost declined the invitation, resulting in some dissatisfaction on the part of CLAS faculty.
  - Credit hours for specific courses for the Computer Science Department vary from those traditionally used in the College of Engineering; this may result in an increase in teaching loads of as much as 25% with the transfer. This is a matter of discussion and negotiation for faculty, administration, and union representation.
  - While the desire of the Computer Science faculty to move to the College of Engineering should be honored, it should be clearly determined that their vote is freely given, and not the result of administrative bribery or coercion.

In addition, those present indicated issues which they believed should receive greater emphasis than had appeared in the minutes previously circulated. Included were:

- The minutes had noted that a COE faculty member expressed concern that previous changes in structure had resulted in faculty members leaving. Those present inquired as to what these issues were. However, since they were largely unspecified, it was recommended that the report simply indicate that all administrative changes can generate uncertainty among faculty members; those responsible for administering the process of change should make considerable effort to alleviate any such difficulties.
- FAC members present believed more emphasis should be placed in the report on the fact that the majority of the Computer Science faculty was in favor of the move.
- At the earlier meeting, several faculty members were concerned about the conformity between Computer Science promotion and tenure factors, and those of the COE. However, at this meeting it was pointed out that departments in COE do not have P&T factors statements. Having one department (Computer Science) with a P&T statement, when no others have one, could be a problem. The College of Engineering will have to deal with this, probably by having its departments develop such statements.

It was agreed that these issues would be included in the report, and that the report would be forwarded to the entire FAC for its approval prior to its inclusion in the general report to the Academic Senate.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Approved at the Faculty Affairs Committee meeting of March 22, 2011