

Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting
September 29, 2009; 3:00 pm
1270 FAB

Present: S. Calkins (Administration liaison), W. Crossland, E. Golebiowska (AAUP-AFT liaison), P. Jarosz, J. Mateika, K. Padmanabhan, R. Parnell, E. Puscheck, M. Sengstock (Policy Committee liaison), R. Yamazaki.

Absent with notice: A. Acsadi, I. Walker (Student Council liaison).

Absent: M. Horn, S. Putatunda.

Agenda

1. *Call to order and welcome*

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 pm.

2. *Background on smoke-free campus initiative and smoking survey.*

The chair and returning members briefed the FAC on the committee's previous actions on the smoke-free campus initiative in 2007 and 2009. In 2007 the FAC considered the smoke-free campus proposal and suggested instead to enforce and modify the existing smoking restrictions. The 2007 FAC suggested constructing smoking shelters off the high traffic routes to keep smokers out of the rain and snow and to minimize the smoke offending others. The 2007 committee's reasons for rejecting the smoke-free campus proposal included: there is no evidence that outdoor second-hand smoke is harmful, enforcement of such a restrictive policy seems unlikely given that the present policy is rarely enforced, it is against collegial tradition to force such a policy on faculty and that such a policy might reduce student enrollment. In 2009 the FAC reaffirmed the 2007 FAC position on the smoke-free campus proposal, formally objected (to the Policy Committee) to the Smoking Survey being carried out and voted to withdraw the FAC's name from any report that supported the smoke-free campus proposal.

The FAC is awaiting the final report on the Smoking Survey from the Elections Committee.

3. *Faculty initiated issues for consideration.*

The chair pointed out that the FAC has a continuing obligation to consider the usage of the Faculty Tab in Pipeline over a 12 month period. The review should take place in April or May 2010. Furthermore some potential topics were suggested by last year's FAC including: should there be a faculty club, further consideration of mentoring, and considering behavioral problems in the classroom.

Prof. Acsadi suggested two potential topics: Salary review of faculty at entry level and above in comparison to other similarly ranked research universities and to expand on our earlier discussions of faculty mentoring by comparing mentored and non-mentored faculty on their path to promotion (both research and non-research track faculty).

Profs. Padmanabhan and Sengstock thought that the information regarding grant information and deadlines should be disseminated more widely. Our committee should see how the information propagating process is working now and what might be done to improve it.

Profs. Sengstock and Yamazaki pointed out recent and continuing problems with Blackboard's speed, reliability, as well as the Blackboard administration's choice of times to roll out a new version (start of Spring/Summer Term) and with getting problems solved in a timely fashion by the Blackboard staff. The system crash on the first day of class was noted along with problems with the Blackboard system losing the "instructor" designation for faculty members and designating them "student" so that the faculty members could not make changes in their syllabi. A member suggested bringing the problems to the attention of the Chief Information Officer, Joseph Sawasky, because Blackboard is considered by administrators to be running well.

The chair encouraged FAC to submit any additional suggestions by e-mail. A list will be prepared and the topics ranked by the FAC for consideration during the academic year. Topics coming from the Policy Committee will take precedence but we will consider the topics as time allows.

4. *Scheduling of future meetings*

The two times during which the most committee members can attend meetings are Tuesday from 2:30 – 5:00 pm and Friday from 2:30 – 5:00 pm. The committee favored meeting Tuesday from 3:00 – 4:00 pm.

Upcoming meetings for the Fall Semester will be scheduled for Tuesday from 3:00 – 4:00 pm on October 20, November 11, and December 15, 2009.

The committee suggested waiting until January to schedule the Winter Semester meetings.

5. *Other business*

None.

6. **Next meeting: Tuesday, October 20, 2009; 3:00 – 4:00 pm.**

7. *Adjourn.*

The meeting adjourned at 3:27 pm.

Approved at the Faculty Affairs Committee meeting of November 17, 2009