

Minutes
Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting
18 February 2009; 10:00 am
1270 FAB

Present: K. Browne, , W. Crossland (Chair), A. Goodman (AAUP/AFT Liaison), P. Jarosz, P. Kernsmith, K. Padmanabhan (Non-Senate), R. Parnell, A. Popadic, E. Puscheck, L. Romano (Policy Committee Liaison), M. Sengstock, J. Wang.

Absent with notice: S. Calkins (Administration Liaison), L. Keashly.

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 January 12, 2009.*

Approved without additional corrections.

3. *Outcome of the Joint Committee meeting on the Center for Academic Excellence in National Security Intelligence Studies*

a. *Discussion of minutes of joint committee meeting*

Minutes of the joint committee meeting were approved.

b. *Discussion of joint committee report draft*

The draft of the memo (report) to the Policy Committee was approved.

4. *Forum on Retirement*

All participants have been contacted and are all set. We will ask Brett Green, Director of Total Compensation and Wellness (TCW) to be present as a resource for questions about University health care plans or other specific WSU-related issues. [He agreed. He will be seated with the speakers as a resource on TCW matters.] Publicity: Two emails have gone out to all faculty and academic staff, 63 returns so far (last year 90). An ad was placed in Pipeline, ad in med school. Distributed flyers. The questionnaire from last year was modified. Volunteers are ready for set up, program distribution, microphones and clean up.

5. *Smoke-free campus proposal update*

a. *Survey is being developed jointly by Student Affairs, Faculty Affairs, Elections Committees to go to all employees.*

The committee had concerns about the proposed smoke-free campus policy. First, the proposed policy might decrease enrollment. Several members noted the classroom restlessness of students who smoked and their need to take smoking breaks. Would a smoking ban cause them to enroll on another campus with less restrictive smoking policies? Unlike more prestigious universities, students attending WSU may seek other equally acceptable campuses within the region or state. [The Chair asked Professor Wang to see what the smoking policies of other Michigan schools are.] Second, the proposed policy is an infringement on the rights of smokers who are breaking no law and, so far as is known, not doing anything to harm the health of others. Third, the current policy providing designated outside smoking areas is not enforced. Fourth, placement of current smoking areas, where smokers are exposed to the elements, seem inconsiderate or even punitive. Fifth, the FAC objected to a scenario in which campus police might be ticketing students (or employees) for

smoking anywhere on campus grounds. Finally, the committee supported the position stated in the FAC's prior consideration of a smoke-free campus policy in 2007. This report noted that current outdoor smoking policy was not enforced and recommended the placement of smoking shelters out of areas of foot traffic, which would keep smokers out of the rain or snow and minimize the impact of their smoking on others. Professor Popadic moved that the committee support the position taken in the 2007 Faculty Affairs report on the proposal for a smoke-free campus and furthermore that the proposed survey regarding a smoke-free campus is unnecessary. The motion was seconded and approved. The committee requested the Chair to convey to the Policy Committee that the Senate should follow the recommendations of the 2007 report on a smoke-free campus (and therefore not do a survey of attitudes toward smoking), communicate the FAC belief that a smoke-free campus would decrease student enrollment at a difficult financial time for WSU and that such a policy is an infringement on smokers' rights. [The Chair sent a memo to the Policy Committee of the Academic Senate to this effect on 2/19/2009.]

6. *Mentoring*

A Senate member outside the committee noted that professional development sessions organized by the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) that dealt with mentoring lacked AAUP-AFT representation. Although the AAUP-AFT representatives are present at new faculty orientation sessions sponsored by the OVPR, this Senate member thought it was important to have union representatives at the mentoring sessions as well to pass on information regarding faculty rights to the junior faculty present.

The Chair asked Professor Puscheck to write a draft report of the committee's consideration of mentoring on campus.

Two members of the committee noted that programs for mentoring junior faculty on obtaining grants had promised the mentor some remuneration if the grant were funded. Both noted they never received the promised compensation.

7. Padu (Prof. Karur Padmanabhan) and Lou Romano are both running for the two at-large Senate seats.

8. **Next meeting: March 24, 2009; 10:00 am, 1270 FAB.**
Future meetings: Wednesday, April 15; Tuesday, May 5.

9. *Adjourn.*

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 am.