

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES – 10/17/11

The Faculty Affairs Committee met at 10:30 am on October 17, 2011, in 1270 FAB.

The following members were present: A. Biswas, N. Datta, M. Fakherddine, J. Fry-McComish, M. Sengstock. Others: S. Calkins, K. Skillin. Absent with Notice: P. Beavers, M. Cooney, R. Hoogland, J. Potoff, E. Puscheck, J. Sondheimer.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am.

Mentoring Survey: Kelley Skillin presented a report on the initial results of the Mentoring Survey which was discussed briefly at the previous meeting. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Those present discussed the results. Further reports will be presented as they are available.

Nutrition and Food Sciences – Student Concern: Jeffrey Potoff, who is handling this issue, was unable to be present. The committee continued discussion of the issue. The Chair indicated that Senate President Lou Romano said he planned to bring the issue to the Graduate Council, which is handling the proposed policy change presented by former Dean Mark Wardell. She did not know the status of these discussions. Abhijit Biswas informed the committee that he is presently serving on the Graduate Council and the committee which is handling this issue. Abhijit will keep the committee informed of the Graduate Council's handling of this issue.

On-Line Courses: Mary Cooney, who is coordinating this issue, spoke with members of the Center for Teaching and Learning. They present training programs to faculty on the methods of teaching such courses, and have invited the committee to meet with them to discuss the issue. They offered to attend an FAC meeting, or to have us meet in their facility. Mary made tentative arrangements for FAC to hold its next meeting at the Teaching and Learning office. Committee members agreed to meet there. Members discussed our charge, which is to ensure that faculty perspectives and rights to control of curriculum and other issues are observed in any on-line courses.

Existing Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) Format: Renee Hoogland and Paul Beavers, who are handling this issue, were not present at the meeting. They will present a report at the next meeting.

Distribution of Teaching Assistants (TAs) to Departments: The Chair asked for a member of the committee to take the lead on this issue. She believed there was a conflict of interest for her to take the lead, since her department is likely to be one of the departments with an interest in this regard. There were no volunteers. Absent members of the committee will be asked if they can volunteer. This will be on the committee's agenda for the next meeting.

Uniform Policy on Grade Changes: This issue had originally been referred to the committee; however, the chair believed the issue had been resolved. She will check with Lou Romano as to whether this is still an issue to be considered.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17, 2011, at 10:30 am, in the Center for Teaching and Learning, which is located in the Purdy-Kresge Library.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.

Mary Cay Sengstock, Chair

**Attachment to FAC Minutes, 10/17/11:
Faculty Mentoring Survey – preliminary results**

- 533 responses
- 83% Full time
- 18% Instructors
- 32% Assistant professors
- 21% Associate professors
- 28% Full professors
- 23% on tenure track
- 53% male; 47% female

Are you receiving mentoring at WSU and/or within your department?

71% no; 29% yes

If you are not currently receiving mentoring at WSU, would you like to?

37% yes; 63% no

Ways WSU could facilitate mentoring that would be very or somewhat helpful:

- 60% resource center
- 79% help finding a mentor based on criteria of interest
- 65% mentoring workshops
- 66% assigning you a mentor in your department
- 70% Regular, but informal faculty receptions
- 78% Promotion and tenure workshops

How important are the following roles for mentors?

- Advise about career development: 94% Extremely or somewhat important
- Advise about balancing career, family, finances, etc.: 74% Extremely or somewhat important
- Research Advisor: 92% Extremely or somewhat important
- Collaborate with projects or writing papers: 80% Extremely or somewhat important

How effective is mentoring at WSU?

- 5% Very effective

- 18% Effective
- 18% Neither effective or ineffective
- 13% Ineffective
- 10% Very ineffective
- 28% Don't know
- 8% Other (Most comments are specific to individual departments)