**Faculty Organization Meeting Agenda**

**Wednesday Feb. 11, 2015 – 180 Burke**

1. Call to Order – Darren Williams, Faculty Council Chairman

Motioned by L. Aronne; R. Troester – seconded – start at 3:30

1. Approval of minutes from last Faculty Organization meeting on Friday December 12, 2014

D. Williams – motion to approve; L. aronne seconded, Minutes approved.

1. Reports of Officers and Standing Committees
   1. Officers
2. Faculty Council Chair - Darren Williams

Introdued Randy Geering to discuss and field questions regarding the events of Friday Feb. 6 .

R. Geering:

- Provided a synopsis of events on Friday, Feb 6 – in situations like this, communication is hard; A man called Erie City police with a threat; at same time caller was on Behrend switch board – and reitered threat against Brunos. Called back again – spoke with R. Geering at 9:47 am. Text message sent to evacuate Brunos at 10:01 am; at 10:03 the young man was aware of text message and made different threat – bomb to blow up whole campus; he called back knowing that R. Geering was able to send a text message to the campus; Geering talked to draw out the caller; caller wanted Geering to send a message that the person wanted the message to say that he was doing it because he felt excluded. First threat was that he had a gun that he was going to shoot; the second threat was a bomb. A message was sent to stay off campus and to stay in place if on campus. Geering needed to be careful with messages since the caller was receiving the texts. At 10:51 the next message came out. At 10:56 called again saying he was going to come to campus and shoot classroom to classroom. Then an orderly evacuation of campus occurred by calling office phones. They didn’t want to broadcast it all at once to control the flow. By 1:30 almost everyone was off campus.

Haven’t heard back from the caller and haven’t been able to trace call yet.

Q from the faculty: Is it a lack of resources that doesn’t allow us to trace it? A: We have a system to see caller ID, but there are blocked numbers; We haven’t been able to track the call yet.

Q: Has the person been found yet? A: No – There is a behavioral management team in place. These should be in every classroom and will be sent out again to all faculty. The poster lists warning signs of students under stress. Most people who do an actual attack, don’t usually send out warnings. There are often changes in behavior that should be reported. People who call and warn more often are asking for help. Bill Gonda added – that PSU’s philosophy is to use “abundance of caution.”

Q: When we have students that concern us – e.g., If they are agitated after returning from war – is there a way to get them help? A: You can contact the BAMT team - the team than can evaluate and reach out to that person.

Q: Is there going to be a training on how to handle these situations for both faculty and students? A: That is a good point. There is information on the Penn State website. Geering will send out information in email. There is a new Building Evacuation Plan. There will be a follow-up to see if people used that plan. D. Birx added there should be some open sessions to review the material. R. Geering said they could have some sessions for faculty in addition to the training offered during staff development days. They will also work with the computer center to see if a message could flash across the classroom podium computer screen.

Feel positive about the overall response from campus. The whole emergency management team at UP was on the phone consulting.

Q: Regarding shelter in place – do all of our classrooms allow us to lock door? A: This is a large open compound – our classroom doors don’t lock purposively – so they can’t be locked if an intruder takes over a class. Watch the active shooter video – each person needs to protect themselves. E.g., Block the door with desks.

B. Gonda – need to have as many tools as we can to get all information out.

Q: Medical issue – student said I can’t see out of one eye – called health and wellness and asked for help. Health and Wellness did not come, Police and Safety are supposed to come. A: In most situations – call Police and Safety (PHONE x6231) – or if serious – call 911. There should be a sticker on all classroom phones – if missing or phone isn’t working – let Randy Joy know.

RRG3@psu.edu – contact Randy eGeering if have additional questions.

ii. Faculty Council Vice Chair - Luciana Aronne

- Provided information about the competing PSU health insurance plans

- received email in October about changes in the Health plan. Minutes from that meeting are still not available. Information is based on minutes from Sept. 9, 2014 and a Oct. 21, 2014 committee meeting that minutes still not available for.

PPO Blue and Savings Plan. – (See attached power point)

- HR felt that PPO Savings Plan was in best interest for us and so raised rates on PPO Blue.

- What happened to excess funds from raising PPO Blue rates? Not all went to support those making less than 50K.

- low cost of savings plan is artificially low and will have to go up over time; committee questioned the ethics of this; some employees would be financially harmed by being forced into the PPO Savings Plan.

- L. Aronne wanted to inform the Faculty Organization of this.

Q: Why does university want us to change A: We don’t know -

There is no Behrend senator on this committee.

Q: The savings plan has lower monthly but higher deductible. Could it be that university saves money when there is a catastrophic emergency?

A: It could be.

Point – need to make the literature clearer on risk;

D. Blasko was on committee until Sept. She clarified that catastrophic coverage is the same in both plans – since there is a maximum out of pocket. The Savings Plan is being incentivized by the government through tax plans. The costs of the plans will get closer in price.

Administration

* + 1. Chancellor - Don Birx

- Discussed a new Chancellor’s Advisory Committee

- There is an Institutional an Educational Diversity Committee, but there seemed to be a gap that specifically looked at issues women in the college were having. Some female faculty agreed to be part of the new Advisory Committee: Soledad Traverso, Pam Silver, and Diane Parente. This committee is available to help female faculty. This committee can provide help with mentoring. They will interface with IEDC and D. Birx. This committee will have a more specific focus than the IEDC.

Q: Is this a mentoring committee or is this an advocacy committee to bring complaints to? A: It can be both – can give advice and feed back

* 1. Committees

i. Research – Tony Mastroberardino – nominations are currently being accepted online

ii. Scholarship and Awards – Jason Bennett – nominations just finished

iii. Undergraduate Studies – Beth Potter – working with Research on awards

1. New Business

– Faculty Council Committee Chair elections and Ombuds Elections – will be coming up; the nominating committee is meeting soon to nominate

- Charisse Nixon has resigned the senate; will need to be replaced.

V. Unfinished Business

- Implementing a Behrend “Common Hour” - won’t be implemented for fall since schedule is largely in place. The survey revealed support for the idea of the common hour; except for objections from athletics;

- Opened to comments:

- If only one section of a course isn’t supposed to be offered at that time; so this should not be an issue;

- The question is how many students would this directly affect? Probably a small number.

- We will try to move forward on this to be active in Spring 2016. Jane Brady says needs to know by Sept. 2015. There is a meeting to discuss with athletics on Monday 2/16.

Q: Is there a university-wide schedule being proposed? Can we set a schedule at Behrend that is different? A: by Jane Brady – there has not been a decision on the common university Schedule.

- SGA sent a formal objection to common hour – but unclear of whether it’s the university’s proposed 11-1:25 common hour or the Friday afternoon time.

- D. Blasko added – that it’s an option for possible hour – you would pick one of the hours within the 11:00-1:25 block.

VI. Announcements

- Faculty Organization Meeting – April 27 3:30 – 4:30

- Faculty Council Meetings – March 2, April 6

VII. Adjournment

D. Williams motioned to adjourn

L. Aronne seconded.

Adjourned at 4:38 pm