

Penn State Behrend Faculty Council
Monday, October 23rd, 2017
3:30 p.m. in Reed 114

Present: Laurie Urraro, Jane Ingold, Tim Krause, Sharon Gallagher, Pam Silver, Luciana Aronne, Nicole Shoenberger, Joe Previte, Rod Troester, David Waples, Robin Panda, Sarah Whitney, Ivor Knight, Ralph Ford, Gary Viebranz, Mary Connerty, Kathryn Wolfe, John Champagne, Steve Strom, Kathy Noce, Moustafa Elhadary, Samantha Oliver, Ozgun Caliskan-Demirag

I. Call to order by Chair at 3:36 PM.

II. Minutes from September 25th, 2017 meeting

A. Luciana Aronne moved to accept the minutes and Rod Troester seconded. Minutes were approved.

III. Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

A. Officers

1. Laurie Urraro, Chair:

- a. Student Samantha Oliver, Director of Academic Affairs for SGA, discussed the findings of a survey administered last year with regard to academic advising. They wanted to see if student concerns were valid. Dr. Owens, Pam Silver, Ken Miller, and Eric Corty helped to develop it. Results didn't show there was a problem. The survey was taken by 397 students. There were many suggestions of a lack of communication including how hard it is to get in contact with their advisors. They expressed frustration about not having access to information and systems they actually do have access to, including Starfish. An advising day and a system to rate advisors were suggested. Some were misadvised about transferring credits. It was recommended that students be surveyed again once people are used to Lionpath and changes in transferring credits are done. Questions about how student prepared to meet with their advisor should be added. Laurie may plan Faculty Forum in February with students.
- b. Laurie continues to attend both College Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings and College Leadership Team (CLT) meetings.
- c. The Curricular Affairs Committee is having a change in leadership. In the event that a committee chair steps down from his/her duty, per Article VII Section 6 of the Constitution, the Faculty Council Chair appoints a replacement. Gary Smith has stepped down as Chair, and Melanie Hetzel-Riggin has graciously accepted Laurie's request that she take his place. Laurie shall be coordinating with Melanie and Pam to ask Curricular Affairs to charge an ad hoc committee to address the curricular issue about the half semester courses.

- d. The NTT task force is continuing to meet and hash out the charge of developing criteria for the new NTT titles.
 - e. There has been a recent issue with buildings not being locked in the evening; an incident in vandalism occurred in the Carriage House Annex # 2 when the building was left unlocked and the lounge area was trashed and food was stolen. We need to remind Police/ Safety that these buildings need to be locked regularly so that this does not happen again.
 - f. Those committees that have a student representative should reach out to them and invite them to the meetings as it is crucial that the students be part of the decision-making process.
 - g. Canvas surveys are not automatically anonymous.
 - h. Constitution: Constitution changes are coming down the line.
2. Tim Krause, Vice Chair: No report.
 3. Jane Ingold, Secretary: No report.
 4. Sharon Gallagher, Past Chair: No report.
 5. Luciana Aronne, Parliamentarian: No report.
- B. Committees
1. Robin Panda, Chair of Academic Computing: No report.
 2. Carol Wilson, Chair of Athletics:
 - a. In an email to the chair, the committee reported that they met on 10/10/17. They reviewed the latest data on GPA and eligibility requirements for Behrend student-athletes, and noted that over 98% of our students-athletes were approved for participation in university athletics during spring 2017 and fall 2016.
 - b. No academic waivers were issued to exempt student-athletes who did not meet GPA or credit requirements, and the overall GPA of our student-athletes was 3.25 in spring 2017.
 - c. They also discussed KINE088, a course that enables our students involved in varsity sports to earn two credits toward the Gen Ed requirement for health and kinesiology, but which still leaves them one credit short of the 3-credit requirement despite their university athletics participation. We elected to explore whether increasing KINE088 to three credits is possible and/or desirable, and will have more information on this by the next meeting.
 3. Gary Smith, Chair of Curricular Affairs: No report.
 4. Ozgun Caliskan-Demirag, Chair of Faculty Affairs:

- a. Things are moving along with the Testing Center in Library 201 which has 24 seats and may be available 10 hours a week. They are writing guidelines for use. Ken Miller is working on staffing.
 - b. They met with Ivor to discuss hiring a college-wide grant writer and how to look for sources to find grants.
5. Alicyn Rhoades, Chair of Research: No report.
6. Sarah Whitney, Chair of Scholarship & Awards:
 - a. UP will kick start University-wide nominations shortly. Please nominate students.
 - b. Behrend awards process will start soon after.
7. Omar Ashour, Chair of Student Life: No report.
8. Joseph Previte, Chair of Undergraduate Studies:
 - a. Working with Faculty Affairs on the testing center. Please give suggestions for that policy to Joe and Ozgun.
 - b. Other charges include teaching and advising awards and they are reviewing the current form. Advising award description should include research. The first announcement goes out in November.
9. Nicole Shoenberger, Chair of Institutional, Educational, and Diversity Committee: The committee asked for confirmation of what their official title is. The website has a different name than the constitution. Committee had been stagnant so there are no charges. They met and discussed what to address including:
 - a. When the committee was first created, there was a classroom climate survey and they would like to do it again.
 - b. Start an international faculty support group.
 - c. What are our diversity numbers and retention rates?
 - d. Website more welcoming for international students.
 - e. More multi-cultural signage.
 - f. Per Andy Herrera: The Institutional Equity and Diversity Committee (let's call it IEDC-1) is different than the Faculty Council's Institutional, Education, and Diversity Committee (IEDC-2, let's say). The latter is a subcommittee charged by Faculty Council and is entirely made up of faculty members. The IEDC-1 is an institutionally-wide committee charged by the Chancellor and is comprised of students, faculty, and staff. Nicole Shoenberger does chair both committees (IEDC-1 and IEDC-2).

C. Representatives

1. Denise Divins and David Waples, Part-Time Faculty Representatives: No report.

2. Rod Troester, University Senate Faculty Representative: They met on October 17. They discussed:
 - a. Smoke-free, tobacco-free report (from a consultant).
 - b. Deferred rush for sorority fraternity.
 - c. President's concern for the budget because of state budget stall.
 - d. WorkLion comes live on December 10th.
 - e. Now a searchable Senate archive to 1940s.
 - f. Encouraged filling out ethics survey.
3. Moustafa Elhadary, Student/Senate Representatives:
 - a. 1,200 copies of a student parking survey were distributed and 91% said they were willing to park farther away in exchange for a cheaper rate.
 - b. Diversity committee is working on hurricane relief.
 - c. They will add a commuter seat.
 - d. Ken Miller asked them to sponsor an app about what is happening on campus.

IV. Dr. Ralph Ford, Chancellor

- A. Please fill out the values survey.
- B. The state budget has still not passed so please keep the pressure on.
- C. Last week Ken Miller, Randy Geering, and Ralph met at the Harborcreek Township Building with the Township Supervisors and residents about safety of Jordan Road. He commends the students who attended as they were professional and made compelling arguments. They were just getting issues out there.
- D. The state of college report will be online at some point.

V. Dr. Pam Silver, Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

- A. They are starting to make progress with Gen Ed changes. Jane Brady and Pam have a plan.
- B. NTT Task Force have been working on criteria and she is confident we can do both levels of promotion this year. An exception petition was sent to Kathy Bieschke's office. Second level is trickier so they proposed to use the current P&T committee to get them promoted so we have someone on the committee. We really need to do some promotions so we don't burden the same people. There will be a period for comment. They have to have broader definitions of scholarship and creativity since it is not prescribed in the same way for the tenure-line faculty.

VI. Dr. Ivor Knight, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies

- A. Developing strategies on research and relying heavily on Council for advice. He is pulling together ad hoc committees from council to help.

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

We need to increase attendance at meetings, so please talk them up at the school meetings.

IX. Announcements

1. Next FAS Chat will be this Wednesday, October 25th at 5:15 in Metzgar! Please consider coming and encouraging students to come; the panel will feature Trigon.
2. We had a successful showing for our first Faculty Forum on Civic and Community Engagement; our next Faculty Forum will take place on Thursday, November 16th and will feature the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity.
3. Behrend meetings
 - Next Faculty Senate meeting (last one this semester): November 28th, 4 pm, Burke 180
 - Next Faculty Council meeting: November 27th, 4 pm, Reed Auditorium
4. University Senate Meetings (UP) – Fall 2017
 - December 5th, 2017

X. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Tim Krause and seconded by Nicole Schoenberger. The meeting adjourned at 4:59 PM.