**Faculty Council Meeting Minutes**

**Monday 2 March 2015 – Glenhill Farmhouse Memorial Room**

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

- J. Bennet moved; L. Aronne second; call to order 3:32 p.m.

1. Approval of minutes from last Faculty Council meeting on Monday January 26, 2015

Motion to approve – L. Aronne; D. Williams second; approved

1. Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

A. Officers

1. Faculty Council Chair - Darren Williams

– next meeting April 6; Faculty organization will be on April 27;

- Ralph Ford – raised an issue with the SRTEs for discussion; he proposed a charge for Faculty Organization concerning online SRTEs; feels that the data are less and less believable, percentages of students who complete them are low, information doesn’t seem as good as it should be yet the scores are still used in annual review; no preconceived notions on how it should be done, but problems with electronic issues – more anonymous – in the past, directors could remove overly harsh, sexist, racist comments; feel it is time to reevaluate how they are administered and they way we use SRTEs.

- L. Aronne noted that when they met with SGA – the students felt there was no point in filling them out.

- There was a discussion on which committee would be best to address this issue. The sense was that it was Faculty Affairs.

- Comments on how to incentivize – recommendation to see Shreyer Honor College – report: [link to Shreyer Honor College report](https://www.schreyerinstitute.psu.edu/increasesrteresprate)

- suggestion about app on cell phone in class; (*NOTE:* See Shreyer statement on mobile app: <http://www.schreyerinstitute.psu.edu/news#345>)

- D. Birx – asked whether the form is mobile; Shreyer has changed the position to allow us to fill it out in class; Doesn’t support the idea of curving

– D. Blasko reminded us that there are principles for administering SRTE; one example is midterm – get feedback and make it seem as though make changes.

- D. Birx support D. Williams idea of letting class out early one day within the two week period to complete the SRTE.

- Q raised – should training be in first year seminar as to what numbers represent?

- D. Williams will ask Shreyer if they can filter out the racist/sexist comments and will send an email to faculty to encourage to have 10 minutes for SRTE;

- Q to Ralph on overreliance on SRTE – A: look at courses being taught, freshman courses might have different responses; develop reliability of peer review systems; second form used in Engineering mailed out – paper form

B. Committees

1. Academic Computing - George Walters – no report
2. Athletics – Terry Blakney– thank the faculty that have been to athletic events;
3. Curricular Affairs – represented by Glenn Kumhera – they are reviewing P3 policy – now proposals must go through review at the school level; revising website that have boxes to indicate where the proposals are; The committee is working on finishing the draft of the proposal process.

iv. Faculty Affairs – Eva Kuttenberg (summary of Feb. 25 meeting) – They had two meetings in Feb. L. Aronne reported on the progress of the non-TT faculty subcomittee; discussed faculty engagement- looking for transparency, consultation, unilateral decision making; Only the School of Science has a document called Governing Documents; School of Business is revising their mechanisms; There are linguistic issues in consistency across the documents for the four schools, e.g., some have program chairs; program coordinators; department chairs; members want more understanding of how program chairs are elected/selected/appointed. Are there mechanisms of review for program chairs or term limits;

- Asked Fac Council if they should develop a list of recommendations for faculty engagement? Yes, there is support from the Council.

1. Research – Tony Mastroberardino – no report

vi. Scholarship and Awards – Jason Bennett

– thanks the faculty who nominated students for awards

vii. Student Life – Kreag Danvers – not here – but D. Williams was at the Feb. 27 meeting and so summarized the topics

– They talked about limited summer food options; maintaining a better climate for international students; discussed Jordan Road issue – encourage students to register to vote and then get out to vote in Harbor Creek to support the closing of Jordan Road;

viii. Undergraduate Studies – Beth Potter

– met last Friday (2/27) – two topics: technology in the classroom; more faculty would be exposed if in a regular faculty meeting rather than the technology training that are poorly attended; talked about Faculty Research Mentor award

Darren – brought up that some committees only have 1 nominee – need additional nominees for Academic Computing, Faculty Affairs; Scholarship and Awards;

Remind all committees to post minutes of the committee meetings – send the minutes to Margie –

* + Representatives

i. Part-Time Faculty Representative – Renee Finnecy- no time for report

ii. Senate Representative - Bill Lasher – represented by Rod Troester - no time for report

iii. Student Representatives - Amyelia Payne, SGA President - no time for report

* + Administration
    1. Chancellor - Don Birx

–discussed recent weather-related campus closings; when there is excessive snow the issue of closing is clear – we don’t close for snow as long as ground crew can keep up; should there be a level of cold before closing – used 30 below windchill; responses have been mixed over closings those two days;

- concern – students are concerned over whether absences are excused or not; we must make sure students feel safe; sent email out to try to make sure there is a uniform response from students. Encouraged faculty to be flexible in allowing students excused absences if they feel unsafe in driving to campus.

- Faculty reactions to the closings were mixed

* + 1. Senior Associate Dean - Bob Light – no report
    2. Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs - Dawn Blasko will discuss FT peer-review policy recently drafted by Penn State Abington

- discussed by ACUE – an example that we may want ot look at; Luciana will discuss with the FT committee.

IV. Unfinished Business

- Summary of Feb. 16 meeting with SGA and athletics to discuss the proposed Friday “Common Hour”

- not addressed at this meeting due to time

1. New Business

– Campus-wide committee chair elections

– Sudarshan Nelatury will replace Bill Lasher as Faculty Senate Representative

1. Announcements

- Faculty Council Meeting – Monday April 6 3:30 PM

- Faculty Organization Meeting – Monday April 27 3:30 PM Burke 180

1. Adjournment

L. Aronne motioned to adjourn; E. Kuttenburg seconded; Adjourned at 4:43 pm.