

Minutes of the Executive Committee

September 14, 2009

Present: Kaufman, Von Till, Whitmore, Selter, Lee, Phillips, Najjar, Meldal, Lessow-Hurley, Baker, McClory, Roldan, Gleixner, Heiden, Backer (all members present)

1. Consent Calendar

Additional comments:

- Victor Cullata is replacing Martin Castillo as the Director of Residential Life on Instruction and Student Affairs
- One new Senator for the College of Education has been identified
- Repeated attempts to fill the vacant Senate seats for Humanities and Arts have failed.
- All vacant committee seats become available at-large after this week.
- President Whitmore is concerned about too many committees or those that are too large. O&G is looking into this. Also, it will be placed on the agenda for the committee chairs meeting on November 20.
- Chair Kaufman and AVC McClory will work on a process for soliciting nominations for the SPAA and SPB.

Approved as presented.

2. Lucy McProud was unanimously approved for reappointment to CFAC

3. Remarks from President Whitmore

The senior administrators will be present at a town hall meeting at noon on Thursday. He solicited suggestions from the Executive Committee regarding what types of questions he should anticipate. Discussion included the following topics:

- furloughs
 - i. will buildings be closed?
 - ii. what about next year?
- increased workload for faculty caused by things such as the absence management system
- what is the strategic evolution of the budget and how will we deal with it?
- why students can't add into classes with empty desks
- warn students about registration dos and don'ts in planning for next year
- what is the timeline for decisions?
- messages meant for faculty that don't reach them
- sharing messages sent to students with faculty
- have a place on the home page with "this week's messages for faculty/students"

4. Academic Affairs Budget Planning

Provost Selter outlined how Academic Affairs is planning to address the budget crisis. The preliminary snapshot of our census for fall 2009 puts us at 101% of target but that may be reduced by upcoming Bursar Drops. The goal is to come in 1/10 of 1% under our target for the year.

Some strategies to consider are to:

- learn how to better manage our enrollments
- make sure the courses that are offered are those that move students toward their degrees
- have a robust winter and summer session through self support for the least cost to students

Because we will have a new Provost next year, Academic Affairs hopes to have a plan in place. To accomplish this, the deans and chairs have been asked to go through a planning exercise for Fall 2010 that is predicated on the following:

- no new mid-year adjustments to the budget
- no further budget reductions next year
- no new student fees
- no furloughs
- no layoffs of serialized (tenure/tenure-track) faculty or 1.0 3-year entitled temps

These plans will be reviewed by the AVPs for Undergraduate and Graduate Studies and any remaining resources will determine the allocation for temporary faculty. Deans will have to identify critical areas that are unserved while maintaining the balance of major, service and other courses. The hope is to complete this process by the end of October.

Note that this is a planning exercise/starting point for discussions. There is significant uncertainty about these assumptions, but we have to plan early and we have to start somewhere.

Comments and questions:

- Is there any consideration for consolidating colleges or departments? Not at this time.
- The Academic Senate is the appropriate place for the Provost to spread the information about this process.
- The Provost is willing to go individually to each of the colleges as opposed to hold a very large town hall meeting for all of Academic Affairs.

5. Sense of the Senate Resolution on core academic activities

AS 1420 was amended as follows:

- the fourth whereas was a duplication and was removed
- the first resolved was shortened by removing everything after “ . . . and educational quality.”
- the last resolved was removed.

The resolution, as amended, was approved to be forwarded to the floor of the Senate.

6. Adjournment: 1:32 p.m.