2014-15 University Committee on Faculty Affairs

MINUTES - Draft

Tuesday, February 17, 2015


Ex Officio: T. Curry, D. Byelich.

Others: W. Donohue, K. Yermak.

Guest: Lorenzo Santavicca, on behalf of ASMSU

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm by Chairperson P. Floyd.

D. Kramer/J. Bell moved to the approve agenda. Motion carried.

A. Ezzo/D. Kramer moved to approve the Minutes of January 20, 2015. Motion carried.

J. Besley/J. Bell moved to approve the Minutes of February 3, 2015. Motion carried.

Announcements

A. P. Floyd – Requested all issues that needed completion by UCFA to be shared.

B. T. Curry – Requested UCFA volunteers to participate in a joint UCFA/UCFT committee to work on the continuation of the discussion of interpretation of the terms “Incompetence” as it may apply in the Dismissal of Tenured Faculty for Cause policy and the Interpretation of the Term “Incompetence” document. D. Kramer volunteered.

C. W. Donohue reported there are currently 8 or 9 cases in process and hearings. The Faculty Grievance Office web site is being updated currently.

D. D. Byelich reported the Governor’s budget recommendations were released last week, noting the overall general fund was proposed for a 6 percent raise with an increase in the higher education budget of 2 percent and a freeze at 2.8 percent on tuition and fee increases.
Old Business

A. Regarding the discussion regarding Interim Secretary for Academic Governance John Powell’s questions asking “how UCFA felt about the University Council meetings being recorded and/or streamed?” J. Besley/R. Beaulac moved that UCFA needs to know more about the cost, dissemination of information, general resources and which meetings this procedure would involve given the importance of transparency in academic governance.

J. Bell/J. Besley moved to amend the motion by adding to the front of the motion: “In principle, we are supportive of digital recordings given the importance of academic transparency.” The motion carried.

The amended motion reads: “In principle, we are supportive of digital recordings given the importance of transparency in academic governance. UCFA needs to know more about the cost, dissemination, general resources and what meetings this procedure will involve.” The amended motion vote was: 10 voting “yes” and 3 abstentions.

B. Grief Absence Policy – Lorenzo Santavicca, on behalf of ASMSU, reviewed the proposal being put forward by the University Committee on Undergraduate Education. The key issues yet to be resolved are:
   a. The policy actually appears to pertain to a number of emergency-related absences for students: bereavement for family member, close friend, or similar circumstance – is the document correctly named?
   b. Details of the absence require some type of communication and coordination as well as determination of responsibility for who/what office is the final decision for the student: class instructor, often the college dean, possibly the Office of the Registrar/Controller’s Office for adjustment of student fees and/or class grade or possibly withdrawal from school for the remainder of the semester.
   c. In some situations, accommodations may be limited; this should be clarified in the language of the proposal.

Therefore, it was determined that Mr. Santavicca would return to ASMSU with some different points for their consideration to be answered as soon as possible so that this policy may be completed so UCFA can complete its review and approval and move it along in academic governance.

The meeting adjourned to subcommittees at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elva Boyles
Recording Secretary