University Committee on Faculty Affairs

MINUTES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008


Ex Officio: Terry Curry, David Byelich.

Others: John Revitte, Donna Zischke.

Call to Order: Chairperson Deborah Moriarty called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: Professor Moriarty made one change in the agenda. She moved the proposed amendment to the Antidiscrimination Policy from New Business into Announcements.

Approval of Minutes: Professor Moriarty stated that seeing no corrections, comments, concerns, or alterations, and without objection, the September 2 Minutes stand approved as distributed.

Announcements: Professor Moriarty made several announcements:

- She thanked David Byelich who directed her to speak with Kathy Lindahl about the future of a sidewalk put in on the north side of Adams Field. Ms. Lindahl looked at the area and stated that a sidewalk would be put in before the winter weather. That is good news.

- The Executive Committee of Academic Council (ECAC) met last Tuesday and the academic calendar for 2009-10 was the topic of discussion as it relates to the beginning of the school year. The Provost’s Office proposal is for students to move on campus the weekend prior to Labor Day weekend, then use Monday and Tuesday as an orientation to campus, classes begin on Wednesday to Friday, and then it would be the Labor Day weekend. At the end of the semester, the first 2 days of exam week would be regular class days and have exams be held on Wednesday through Saturday. It has not been well received by faculty or students. There was a brief discussion and sharing of opinions to give Professor Moriarty a general sense of the feeling of the committee. It was generally felt that the university should review the term length which stands at 15 weeks presently. MSU has one of the longest academic terms of most schools in the United States. The opening schedule of school next fall could be approved as a pilot for one year and an evaluation based on input by students, faculty, staff, and administration to determine its value whether or not to permanently change fall semester dates.

- The Anti-Discrimination Policy proposal could be discussed at the next meeting after hearing either Frank Fico or Fred Boster speak. The UCFA decision should be determined and forwarded to ECAC by October 1 for inclusion on their October 7
meeting agenda.

Professor Moriarty also attended the MSU Board of Trustees Faculty Liaison meeting and their agenda focused on entrepreneurial faculty activities and risk taking – for instance, parking difficulties, IM privileges free to faculty, and having calorie counts put on all campus menus.

Professor John Revitte distributed copies of the End of SUMMER SEMESTER 2008 Report, gave an overview of the report, and answered questions.

Subcommittee Reports:

**Budget:** Ross B. Emmett, Chairperson  
Dr. Emmett reported that his subcommittee would be doing some preparation with the draft university appropriations request, looking into some of the larger scale fiscal issues the university faces, and there are also a number of human resource policy and benefit issues yet this fall.

**Personnel Policy:** Jason Merrill, Chairperson  
Dr. Merrill reported that his subcommittee would be looking at the all-university policy on the Integrity of Scholarship and Grades later today.

Old Business: No old business was noted.

New Business: Professor Moriarty introduced:

Kristine Zayko and the topic of web accessibility who worked with both David Gift, Vice Provost for Libraries, Computing and Technology, and Paulette Granberry Russell, Senior Advisor to the President for Diversity and Director of the Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives, to explain the university's point of view and responsibility for the university community extensively using the web for much of their work as well as entertainment. The new Web Accessibility Policy embodies a longstanding commitment to provide an accessible web to the university community. At the same time, recall that students often receive class information from their instructor via the web, so this policy must be accomplished so that the web will be accessible to all persons under the Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The campus web masters have been meeting and discussing what possible changes will need to be undertaken to comply with the new policy. The policy will become effective next May 15, 2009.

Sheila Wamhoff, Payroll Office, announced that payroll earnings statements for salary employees will be discontinued effective January 31, 2009. She explained that the office wants to be part of the “Be Green” initiative and this will be a budget savings for the department as well.

David Byelich distributed copies of the MSU Preliminary Enrollment Report for the Board of Trustees, September 5, 2008 and gave an overview of the report.

Terry Curry had no announcements or questions on his area.

Other Questions: Professor Moriarty inquired if it would be agreeable that committee members plan to use their laptops so they would have access to all e-mailed files and that would save on paper. That was agreeable.

Dr. Merrill made a motion to adjourn to subcommittees seconded by Dr. Aben. The motion carried.

Adjournment: UCFA adjourned to subcommittees at 2:04 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Elva Boyles
Recording Secretary