University Committee on Faculty Affairs

MINUTES

Tuesday, October 28, 2008


Ex Officio: Terry Curry, David Byelich.

Others: John Revitte.

Call to Order: Professor Moriarty called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: Dr. Merrill made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Dr. Aben. Professor Moriarty added one item to the agenda to appoint a representative to the Academic Calendar Committee, and that will come under New Business, Item c. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Dr. Merrill made a motion to approve the September 30, 2008 Minutes seconded by Dr. Zelevinsky. Dr. Nicholson noted one incomplete sentence near the end of the Minutes in the Other Questions section (corrections noted in bolded italics):

Revising the forms and their use appears to be under discussion.

The Minutes were approved as amended.

Announcements: Professor Moriarty made the following announcements:

✓ From Academic Council, she reported two points:
  ▪ President Simon basically began saying that financial liquidity isn’t an immediate problem for MSU – the institution has moved slowly and deliberately in the financial arena.
  ▪ A motion, originally from ECAC, was passed about examining or changing the academic calendar, and UCFA was asked to provide a member to the committee to examine and discuss the academic calendar.
✓ From the Faculty Liaison Group to the Board of Trustees, the discussion also centered around two points:
  ▪ Faculty inclusion in strategic planning;
  ▪ Economic flexibility to recruit and retain excellent faculty.
✓ Professor Curry reaffirmed his understanding of President Simon’s point.
✓ David Byelich provided additional information on President Simon’s views.

Subcommittee Reports:

Budget: Ross B. Emmett, Chairperson Dr. Emmett, although unavailable to attend this meeting, did distribute his subcommittee report via e-mail.

Personnel Policy: Jason Merrill, Chairperson He reported that the subcommittee had completed its review of the Policy on Criminal Background Checks and they will present that to the full committee during New Business later in this meeting. They went on and started
their discussion of the Faculty Grievance Policy and will continue that today.

**Old Business:** No old business was noted.

**New Business:**

a. Policy on Criminal Background Checks – Professor Curry presented an overview on how this policy began and evolved. Kristine Zayko, General Counsel Office, explained how the proposed policy would work. This presentation was for the information of UCFA and no voting was required. Ms. Zayko will meet with academic specialists next week and review this material with them.

b. Professor Moriarty briefly discussed the upcoming visit of Provost Wilcox with UCFA on Tuesday, November 18. Subcommittees will meet first, 1:00-2:00 pm and the full UCFA will then reconvene at 2:00 pm to meet with Provost Wilcox.

c. Professor Moriarty asked if there was any volunteer to represent UCFA and attend the Academic Calendar Committee. With no response, she volunteered to attend the initial meeting and determine what time obligation this might involve.

**Other Questions:** No other questions were noted.

Dr. Davidson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Merrill. The motion carried.

**Adjournment:** UCFA adjourn at 2:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elva Boyles  
Recording Secretary