University Committee on Faculty Affairs

MINUTES

Tuesday, February 17, 2009


Ex Officio: Terry Curry, David Byelich.

Others: John Revitte, Donna Zischke.

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

Approval of Agenda: Dr. Merrill made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Dr. Aben. Professor Moriarty asked that Professor Estelle McGroarty be moved forward on the agenda and be after Approval of Minutes. Dr. Merrill made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Dr. Aben. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Dr. Davidson made a motion to approve the February 3, 2009 Minutes seconded by Dr. Merrill. The motion carried.

Professor Moriarty introduced Professor McGroarty, Assistant Vice President in the Office of the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, and she spoke about the COS Profiles. After presenting a comprehensive overview of COS Profiles, now called COS only, she noted that next August the Office of the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies would be adding to their office HARP – Humanities and Arts Research Program to provide faculty, graduate/undergraduate students, and librarians opportunities to share in points of view from researchers worldwide that would be a great value to the arts and humanities research sector as well as to the science sector. She distributed three pages from the following web address: http://www.csa.com/e_products/COScholars.php
Her presentation appeared to answer all questions relating to the topic of COS Profiles from two weeks prior in UCFA. Her information was well received.

Announcements:

✓ Professor Moriarty reported on the Faculty Liaison Group meeting saying that President Simon, talking about the budget and tuition and fees, said if MSU didn’t have a tuition increase and received a decrease from the governor and, leaving everything else the same, 703 employee positions would have to be eliminated. David Byelich will report on that information in his budget report.

✓ The MSU Health Team and their providing services to campus was another topic, and Dr. Davidson, as a member of the Health spoke about his understanding of this information. This topic is still in the “discovery and evaluate information” phase of possible changes to campus health care.

✓ Presently, the Provost’s Office is looking for President Simon’s statement on Civility.

✓ The Academic Calendar Survey response has been quite strong so far and that is quite
Encouraging.

✓ Through a communication from the University Committee on Faculty Tenure (UCFT), in which they asked UCFA to look into the procedures for hiring people in the Grand Rapids medical facility and other MSU off-campus facilities. It was decided that there should be some questions and answers fielded by representatives from the Colleges of Human Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine to review the raised questions and share current policies – hiring criteria and how adjunct faculty are handled. Associate deans from each college could ultimately be invited to UCFA and discuss their hiring policies.

✓ At ECAC, the definition of “Scholarship” was put on the table. This project was given to UCFA. This is a term above research. It was decided that articles by Dr. Charles Glassick and Dr. Ernest Boyer would be essential in accomplishing the definition. Dr. Anderson felt he had that information and he will forward it to Elva to be distributed to the Committee. The “scholarship” of teaching – is that research on teaching? Or is it about the philosophy of pedagogy? Is it what the faculty does in the classroom articulated? What’s the audience for such activity? These all are quite legitimate questions. We need to find out what other universities have as a definition of scholarship and go on from there. This topic will be widely discussed during the March 3rd UCFA meeting.

✓ Faculty Council will continue reviewing proposed bylaw revisions.

✓ Professor Curry asked if Dan Evon, director of Contract and Grant Administration, could attend UCFA and speak about summer salary funding. He will attend the March 3rd meeting.

✓ David Byelich gave a budget update and overview of current activity with slides used by President Simon with the Board of Trustees to show the extent of the proposed budget changes by the state. The budget changes made to MSUE and MAES for 2009-10 are alarming – MSU Extension is in every county in this state and it’s such a valuable service for the state’s farming industry. This has caused consideration of the “What If” analysis – this would point out the many possibilities and repercussions from these proposed budget changes. This information can be accessed at: http://www.budget.msu.edu (This same connection is also noted on the UCFA web page.)

Subcommittee Reports:

**Budget:** Ross B. Emmett, Chairperson  Dr. Emmett reported that the subcommittee discussion was led by David Byelich regarding possible budget changes due to the state funding proposals.

**Personnel Policy:** Jason Merrill, Chairperson  Dr. Merrill reported that the subcommittee worked on reviewing the revisions to the 5-year review of the FGO.

Old Business: No old business was noted.

New Business: No other new business was noted.

Other Questions: There were no other questions noted.

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

Adjournment: UCFA adjourned to subcommittees at 2:25 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Elva Boyles
Recording Secretary