University Committee on Faculty Affairs  
MINUTES  
Tuesday, October 27, 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. Anderson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Dr. Zelevinsky. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:  Dr. Emmett made a motion to approve the October 13, 2009 Minutes seconded by Dr. Bulich. The motion carried.

Announcements:

a.  Professor Moriarty reported on:
   - The action in the October 13, 2009 Faculty Council meeting. The Bylaws for Academic Governance, as amended last year, were passed. There may be further amendments to the bylaws (such as editorial problems, parts that didn’t match up, etc.) from Dr. Robert Banks. His amendments will be returned to the University Committee on Academic Governance (UCAG) so that they could draft language and come back to Faculty Council, be voted on, and then the Bylaws will go to Academic Council (with or without Dr. Banks’ revisions or additions), then on to the President, and then to the Board of Trustees. She felt this would all happen yet this semester.
   - The Academic Council had very few agenda items. The Music Therapy Program was discussed. (Beginning last summer 2009, no new students were admitted to the program. All students currently in the program will be able to complete their degrees.)
   - The Faculty Liaison Group breakfast met Tuesday morning and they discussed health care, the budget, the Bylaws, and the concern amongst the faculty about budget cuts and how it was affecting non-tenured people. There was a feeling that the standards for faculty to become tenured were being artificially raised and seen as a possible way to save money by making tenure standards higher, which is, of course, untrue.  
     - UCFA will meet next week, November 3, to speak about on-site health care. This is an innovative proposal and the speakers will be Mike LaPenna and Richard Ward.

b.  Terry Curry – no announcements

c.  David Byelich spoke briefly about the current state budget progress. The future of the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service budgets is unknown at this point. Those budgets are comprised on federal appropriation support contingent on the state appropriation support in more or less equal parts. If there
should be no state money, there may also be no federal money. The state budget decision must occur by the end of the day October 31. He also addressed a question submitted by Dr. Zelevinsky: to what extent can the university policy (of saving in good times and spending those savings in difficult times) help MSU now? This has been a good policy for the university and it is helping out now – the endowments have a payment based on the average change in the last 20 calendar reports, endowments continue to pay. Each campus department has a fund balance and they are using those balances now. The institution also has the possibility of using the Infrastructure Reserve Fund and the Research Reserve if necessary.

d. John Revitte – no announcements

Subcommittee Reports:

Budget: Ross B. Emmett, Chairperson  Dr. Emmett reported that the subcommittee will be reviewing the final draft of the State Appropriation Request. They will also be working on health care issues/survey.

Personnel Policy: Jason Merrill, Chairperson  No report made in the absence of the chair, Dr. Merrill.

Old Business:

Professor Curry gave an overview of the annual Provost memo regarding Appointment, Reappointment, Tenure, and Promotion. Dr. Zelevinsky brought forth a question on the last sentence on the first page:

“What qualifies an activity as scholarship is that it be deeply informed by the most recent knowledge in the field, that the knowledge is skillfully interpreted and deployed, and that the activity is carried out with intelligent openness to new information, debate, and criticism.”

There is no mention of “creation of new research or discovery of new research.” The “essence” of scholarship is lacking what qualifies it and that is “discovery.”

The memo will go out as it is and the suggested editorial change may be in next year. This suggested change will be shared with the University Committee on Tenure. Dr. Emmett made a motion to approve the memo for this year supported by Dr. Aben. The motion was approved with Dr. Zelevinsky abstaining.

Professor Moriarty will contact Paulette Granberry Russell and agree with her suggestion to submit a revised Sexual Harassment document that is red-lined to indicate what has been changed and what additions she would be making.

New Business:

Dr. William Latta and Ms. Karen Wenk from University Advancement spoke about the raise give-back process. UCFA asked that office to speak to the committee about the process of faculty/staff possibly returning their raises to the university if they decided to do so. Dr. Latta shared that our faculty support MSU at a rate that is higher in their donations than any other university in the Big Ten...not only is it higher, but it is significantly so. They distributed a folder containing a letter from Vice President Robert W. Groves and a form for Faculty/Staff Salary Increase Scholarship Opportunity. They introduced the Spartan Scholarship Challenge (SSC) which is a challenge program running from now until December 31, 2010 where MSU will match $1 for every $2 donated to the SSC. The match can be applied to individual gifts of any amount up to $1 million. The initial payment must be made by December 31, 2010 with final payment made by December 31, 2014. Income earned from each names\d endowment will provide a permanent source of scholarship funds. This match opportunity will expire when the $7 million made available through an anonymous gift has been
exhausted or by December 31, 2010, whichever comes first. Ms. Wenk is the Director of Special Gifts and she will be the contact person for this process and for any questions regarding this process. Her e-mail is wenk@msu.edu and the web site is: www.givingto.msu.edu/allu. The code for this is in the center of the form: Appeal Code: 01087. You may telephone their office and the number is 884-1084.

Dr. David Gift introduced Tom Block, Debbie Hafke, and Bruce Alexander who are all working in the Enterprise Business Systems. Dr. Gift announced that the “Go Live” date has changed from July 2010 to January 2011. There have been changes in their expectations of what they hoped to accomplish and what they are actually able to accomplish by this new date. The new system will eliminate the need for the “shadow” systems, such as reconciling business actions. This should eliminate repeating information in the standard forms, such as PAN forms and Change of Status forms. These are foundation systems and will assist with integrating information in updating forms with more ease and less redundancy in filling in forms.

Professor Moriarty gave a brief overview on the Health Care Survey as it is presently. There were good suggestions made to be used in the final letter and survey which should be sent out within the coming week.

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

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

**Adjournment:** UCFA adjourned to subcommittees at 2:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elva Boyles  
Recording Secretary