

## **Parsons Faculty Assembly**

Kellen Auditorium

Minutes for 11/16/10

Taken by Tamara Albu

The following PFC members attended the meeting:

Tamara Albu

Adam Brent

David Brody

David Carroll

Simone Douglas

David Lewis: liaison from the UFS to the PFC, Fall '10

Sarah Lichtman

James Mendolia

Seth Nagelberg

Gregory Newton

Anezka Sebek

Heico Wesselius

Start 8:05

Meeting led by: David Carroll, Cynthia Lawson, co-chairs of the Parsons Faculty Council (PFC).

1. Announcing the agenda
2. Health care plan overview: David Brody, Pam Klein and Sarah Lichtman
3. Council committee workload assessment revised survey – presentation and feedback: Adam Brent and James Mendolia
4. New School senator report about privacy concerns related to the wireless technology used by NS: David Lewis
5. Discussions

### **1. Announcing the agenda: David Carroll and Cynthia Lawson**

### **2. Health care plan overview: David Brody, Pam Klein and Sarah Lichtman**

- David Brody, Pam Klein, Sarah Lichtman addressed some of the issues related to the new Health Care Plan adopted by the University.
- **David Brody** gave a briefing of the new health plan and its cost impact. He reminded faculty about taking full advantage of Aetna's vision coverage and other benefits before the end of the year, when the plan expires.
- **Pam Klein** reported on the process of the adoption. Each Division of the NS was represented in the NS Health Task Force. As stated in the memo sent to all NS employers, Pam explained why Aetna decided to raise their rates. There was a look back of NS employers health spending which showed a significant \$ increase. The Task Force called an emergency meeting to assess the new proposed rates. Three competitive

health insurance companies were considered by NS. Oxford made the lowest offer and after further negotiations NS decided to sign the contract agreement with them.

- Adam Brent raised the question of theft identity and other fraudulent activities that might have contributed to the unusual escalation of health expenses.
- Pam mentioned the self insurance as another potential type of plan that the University is also exploring.
- There were some questions related to the health insurance related to PT vs FTF coverage.
- **Sarah Lichtman** highlighted some of the benefits of Oxford new health plan. She pointed out the new benefits that may offset the higher rates: Gym membership fees, Glasses/Vision coverage included the “small print” items that need to be carefully read and considered.
- Full Time Faculty were reminded about the Open enrollment dates and inquires that may be further addressed by HR staff.
- Before we go on Oxford, everyone should get their prescriptions for glasses filled. The Aetna plan covers \$200.00 (?check) for prescription glasses. The Oxford plan does not

### 3. Council committee workload assessment revised survey – presentation and feedback: David Carroll, Cynthia Lawson, Adam Brent and James Mendolia

- **David Carroll** review briefly the work done by the council on the workload, highlighting the historical path done on FTF workload:
  - Charge from the Tim Marshall (at the time Dean of Parsons) to the PFC (at the time called Faculty Affairs Committee) regarding FTF Workload in Spring 2009
  - Parsons PFC Presentation Spring 2009 and
  - The Parsons Workload Task Force formed by the Dean’s Office in Fall 2009.
- **Cynthia Lawson** in her role as member of the University Workload Task Force, reported the structure and progress of their group. Other members of the WL Handbook Task Force include Ken Stevens, Peter Wheelwright and Cynthia Lawson). The Task Force Committee is working closely with Faculty Handbook Revision Committee and the Provost Office.
  - The Workload distribution still need s to be clarified and better defined. At the University level they are still debating the quantifiable method of measuring the workload: number of weeks/hours or percentages. The PFC new survey was developed as a tool of assessment for keeping the WL in balance. It purpose is to capture the amount of hours spent on the three major tasks: Teaching, Service and Research/Creative Practice. The Handbook Task Force Committee is eager to review the collected data provided by this survey. All eyes are on Parsons and the Task Force Committee is eager to see our survey results. Parsons faculty has traditionally led the other divisions in faculty led initiatives.
- **Adam Brent and James Mendolia** presented the Workload survey template and answered questions raised by faculty.

- James Mendolia demonstrated the color-coded Ical calendar as a snapshot allocation of tracking and quantifying the tasks related to the three major review criteria of Teaching, Service, and Research/Creative Practice.
- Adam Brent presented the template in detail and announced the launching of the survey at the end of November. He explained benefits of the revised survey: one-time fill in, multiple-choice format with room for comments. He encouraged the FTF to contact School reps for further suggestions and clarifications.
- Michelle Bogre and several other faculty raised questions and concerns related to the issue of confidentiality if the surveys are linked to names.
- The Committee explained that the Faculty names are required only to keep track of participation to the survey. The PFC assured the faculty that their names will not be or made public or used for other purposes. The faculty are easily identifiable by the classes they teach. Using N00XXXX is more dangerous because it gives anyone with mal intent access to much more critical information.
- Bill Morrish raised some questions related to the time measured to manage the grants, understanding the course material before teaching it.
- Other questions addressed:
  - Who manages the time and workload -- the faculty or the school dean?
  - Clarifying the survey time bracket – before during and after fall semester
  - Creation of a review of Winter and Summer activities.

**4. New School senator report about privacy concerns related to the wireless technology used by NS: David Lewis**

- **David Lewis**, as member of the TNS Senate presented the report from the Infrastructure Committee of the Senate on the issue of SafeConnect NAS.
- David presented the report in full (see attached).
- Ted expressed his skepticism about the Infrastructure Committee report and affirmed that his concerns remain the same as stated in his original report. He reiterated the point that other universities have not required similar security measures for their wireless connections. He would like to see this issue fully reconsidered, and asked that any security policy be consistent with the New Schools' proactive stance toward freedom of information and progressive politics.

**5. Discussions**

- Discussions continued after the meeting was adjourned

End 9:05 AM

The above topics wrapped up the final PFA for the Fall 2010 semester.