

Parsons Faculty Assembly
Fall 2009

Meeting – September 21, 2009, 8AM
Kellen Auditorium

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Who is the PFC and what is our role?
3. Workload update by David Carroll
4. This year's membership, school representatives and committees – Governance, Faculty Affairs, Space and Facilities
5. University Faculty Senate update by Ken Stevens
6. Open discussion - what pressing items would the Full-time Faculty like to see addressed in the Council this year?

Representatives – University Faculty Senate

Sarah E. Lawrence

David Lewis

Ken Stevens

Peter M. Wheelwright

Representatives – Parsons Faculty Council (by school)

ADHT: David Brody, Sarah A. Lichtman, Gregory Newton

AMT: David Carroll, Simone Douglas, Anezka Sebek

Fashion: Tamara Albu, James Mendolia, Luciana Scrutchen

SCE: Mark Bechtel, Laura Briggs, Seth Nagelberg

SDS: Adam Brent, Cynthia Lawson, Heico Wesselius

Notes:

Covered charges of PFC w/ re: to PFA

Subcommittees: Body of advisors, can accept adhoc charges.

David Carroll: WL

-went over acronyms

-presented WL to PEC.

-Reminded faculty to contact reps for "WL:presentation" info on WL presentation as drafted by PFC subcommittee/Faculty affairs.

-Joel formed a WL task force:

Members:

Nadine Bourgeois

Simone Douglas

Laura Aurricchio

David Carrol

Soo Chon

Steven Faerm

David Leven

Alison Mears

Miodrag Mitrasinovic

November 20-Dec 7th, we (PFC) vet task force proposal

12/16: present to PFA

Question: will new policy apply to faculty currently going under review?

David: original WL doc is not an official line and should not be misinterpreted

Cynthia L: Subcommittees:

Governance, by-laws

Faculty Affairs: WL

Space and Facilities: concerning facilities across the new school, parsons and a focus on the new buildings

Senate: Ken Stevens

- went over our numerical proportion to the New schools. Parsons has the most representatives at 26.
- talked of the process via resolutions.
- discussed wait and level of input of the trustees and how "this is not a complete democracy"
- Often, current events drive the process

Senate has three standing parallel committees to PFC

aware that plans across the street will shape the future :Building for 65 5th ave
Senates concerns are across the divisions

Senate Agendas:

- transition: governance and administration w/ regard to outgoing president and ending terms of all the dean's terms which end in 2010
- Liaison with BOARD OF TRUSTEES:
- Has a light relationship with Senate
- Senate would like to help shape Faculty Handbook.
- Senate Co chairs have few fixed notions re: policy issues to be addressed by senate.
- Senate will provide a new rep for evaluating the new student evaluation process
- Free Speech committee: will that document be readdressed?
- Report on last years "April Events"

Faculty comment: are notes from the faculty senate available on the Fac Website? yes but to what extent...

Q&A:

How will WL task force work with PFC?

David: Original presentation serves only as a guide. Laura Auricchio will be writing the policy. There is a "great mutual approach" to make the policy applicable.

- Faculty comment: David Chairs the WL Task Force. "We were asked to make sure the original presentation remains rational and transparent."

Faculty question: How does the policy become the law of the land?

Dean comment: WL is handbook issue, University wide and has to be worked out so there is a sense of equity across the university. Parsons is driving the Faculty issues. It will not be the case that when we are done with this policy, that it will be employed University wide. Policy will be a working document for addressing "old code and new code" new and existing contracts. Will first go to the senate, then Provost. Hopes for a Strong Document. We have to look at implications with regard to function of the division and administrative

realities.

Faculty comment: Graduate Thesis is a workload issue across the university in the other divisions. It is clear that the provost has a clear interest in the WL policy and has staffed his office accordingly.

Faculty comment: Graduate advising is an active aspect of the WL discussion

Faculty comment: What role does class size and type play in the WL discussion.

Faculty comment: Type plays a larger role, both are on the table. Acknowledged the challenged university wide. the current method is via percentage of class time. Size has not been directly addressed... More studio vs. lecture.

Faculty comment: size vs facilities is the issue. Would like committees to dig into class size vs. type.

Faculty comment: will be addressed in Task forces first meeting on 9/23. Part of her list of questions.

Faculty comment: Research into similar institutions ? Wages, " student evaluation and grade inflation", can we get this in to fairness doctrine/

David: WL committee did its research at peer institutions. Did not find a gold standard. Every institution struggles with this. As a design school within an institution, we have a unique position.

Faculty question: Sale of Health Net to UHD? What are the ramifications? What is the school doing? Is there an initiative?

David: have FTF and PTF ask providers if they accept UHD first? To get larger faculty concern.

Faculty comment: Benefits office did not send a reply to his related inquiry.

Dean comment: there is a university and faculty based committee focuses on these concerns. He expects a report soon. The membership is capable and should be made public.

Dean comment: 5th time of health care renegotiation. Carol Cantrell is fighting on your behalf. There is a positive process underway.

Dean comment: I will get Carol to send something around

Faculty comment: Grievance process regarding promotion review; Something to address in the Senate.

Faculty question: Diversity? What happened? Are we still focused on this in the faculty Affairs group?

Cynthia: We have only had one meeting, will address, but with out a particular focus on "searches."

Faculty comment: Has seen an increased enrollment despite the economic down-turn, Faculty have been asked to absorb cuts, so what are the scenarios moving forth?

Dean comment: we can't make that assessment until October. It is also a university wide question with regard to the disproportion of Parsons growing enrollment compared to other divisions.