University Faculty Senate
Tuesday, August 30, 2016

Attending:

Charles Allison, SPE
Adria Benjamin, CoPA
Julie Boyd, CoPA
Ron Caldwell, Parsons
Erin Cho, Parsons
Margaret Fiore, SPE
Josh Furst, Lang
Danielle Goldman, Lang
Maragarita Gutman, SPE
Richard Harper, CoPA
Rachel Heiman, SPE
Nicolas Langlitz, NSSR
Mark Larrimore, Lang
Frank Nemhauser, CoPA
Derek Porter, Parsons
Richard Salcer, Parsons
Christian Schneider, Parsons
Candy Schulman, SPE
Luciana Scrutchen, Parsons
Scott Whitehurst, CoPA
Jennifer Wilson, Lang

Not Attending:

Craig Bernecker, Parsons
JY Song, CoPA

I. Welcome Back and Recap from Last Year

Adria welcomed everyone back and get a brief recap of Faculty Senate business from the previous year:

- Last year the UFS was focused on trying to have better communication with administration about how decisions are made at the university. The UFS tried to legislate a resolution but Adria was unsure what happened with that resolution.
● The UFS participated in faculty salary increases process last year. The senate has been fully engaged in the process since the issue with the communication around faculty salary increases in the recent past.

● The UFS has discussion with the student senate last year about graduate assistant unionization and expect that conversation to continue into this year.

● The UFS has standing subcommittees which will need to be reassigned this year.

● The faculty and staff lounge is being re-designed. No structural changes will be made but some upgrades will take place. No work has happened yet.

● When Middle States visited the UFS last year they were surprised that the UFS didn’t have more legislative powers. This issue is one that is expected to evolve over time.

● Lyterati was rolled out last year and is an on-going issue.

● There are still some empty seats on the UFS that need to be filled.

● Last year, a reapportionment was completed to give better representation to the colleges.

● Renumeration was a hot topic last year. Adria is still waiting for some firm details about the resolution for remuneration for PTF but still does not have clarity about that.

Discussion:
Richard S. said that he remembered that the administration approved some remuneration figures for PTF. Adria said that those numbers have not been confirmed by the administration with her and that Sven is also trying to help move this along.

II. Co-Chair Elections

The nominations on the table for co-chair are: Adria, Craig, Erin, Luciana. The bylaws stipulate that co-chairs must come from different colleges. Franked asked if there were any nominations from the floor or if the UFS should propose interim co-chairs. Charles volunteered to stand for co-chair. Frank asked if there was any discussion needed to allow more than one co-chair from a specific college for a temporary basis.

Discussion:
Richard S. didn’t think that it should impact their role, if there were more than one co-chair from a specific college. Richard H. felt it was important for the co-chairs to look like they represent the university. Charles agreed. Julie asked if everyone running is FTF. The answer is yes, though Frank pointed out that the administration would prefer to have no more than one PTF as co-chair. It might become an issue in the future if PTF want to run. Jennifer suggested that the co-chairs remain as laid out by the bylaws.

Senators standing for co-chair were asked to give a brief statement:

Luciana: She shared that she was a representative for the Parsons Faculty Council and has been at TNS for 16 years. She started as PTF and has a deep understanding of how the university works, both administratively and as a faculty member.
Erin: She said that she is excited for the opportunity to serve. She is in the last year of her second term and is excited by the evolution and progression of the UFS. If elected she would work toward situating the senate more closely to the decision making processes at the university. She pointed out that the UFS has mostly been used as an advisory body and she would like to see that change. She has also been involved with a lot of tenure/RTA reviews and could provide insight on this process.

Charles: He said that he tried to run for co-chair during his first year but was maybe too new. Aside from trying to get people to attend the meetings, he wants people to get to know each other better. He would like to find a new way to focus on the most important issues without getting distracted by other issues.

Craig: Sent an email to the entire UFS and was read to UFS in his absence.

Frank handed out ballots.

Candy asked about voting for Parsons representatives and wondered if they should vote for only one from Parsons. Frank replied that people should vote however they want but that it might be neater to just vote for one Parsons person.

Voting took place. Frank and Julie counted and tallied the votes.

The new co-chairs got 16-17 are:

Adria
Charles
Luciana

III. Standing Committees

Adria reported that last year Sven populated the standing committees and they sort of remained as is. One is the FTF committee with all FTF and another is the PTF committee with all PTF. Then there are four other standing committees that the co-chairs will meet to discuss how to make those assignments.

Discussion:
Ron suggested that faculty be polled for their preferences. Margaret would prefer to state preferences for times to meet. Frank said that one suggestion would be to meet Tuesdays at this time on days when there aren’t UFS meetings. Jennifer asked for a synopsis for the charges of
each committee that could be sent around. The former chairs of each of the committees were asked to give a brief synopsis.

Frank, Senate Affairs: He said that the Senate Affairs committee deals with election. They also worked with Elaine Savory last year to get a history of the senate written Frank needs to follow up with her about that. Senate Affairs also deals with the rules and regulations according to the bylaws.

Erin, Academic Affairs: She said that the Academic Affairs committee talked about the catalog, and other systems the school has been implementing like admissions software. The committees has also been coordinating with the Faculty Affairs committee.

Luciana, Learning Environments: She said that the Learning Environments committee was looking at current teaching and learning spaces and that it has been hard to find out who makes decisions in regard to certain spaces, new scheduling system, and classroom attributes. The committee wonders if these questions are taken into consideration when classes are assigned.

Charles, Finance Committee: He said that he feels uninformed about this and it is his priority to get more information.

Rachel, FTF: She said that the FTF committee is the negotiating body for FTF. Salary issue was a big deal. The committee also want to shift from reactive role to a more proactive role.

Julie, PTF: She said that the PTF committee discussed concerns about percentage of PTF vs. FTF on the UFS and was concerned about having a voice. The major issue discussed last year was the letter drafted by David Lopato to the administration about remuneration.

Adria said that she wanted to ask for retro pay for PTF from last year. She also said that if at the next meeting the co-chairs can’t report back with specificity what the pay for PTF will be then the UFS will need to strategize how to move forward. Adria felt that the senate couldn’t move forward until this issue was resolved. Richard S. agreed that the senate should stand their ground. Julie felt like the UFS should really take action instead of just talking about things. Julie wanted to know what the next priority is for the UFS if this issue gets resolved. Adria said the her and the other co-chairs will reach out to everyone to ask for top issues that senators want to focus on.

Mark inquired about the Middle States visit and wondered if it was a point of leverage. Another senator responded that the Middle States folks didn’t come back and check on that issue specifically. Adria said that she has noticed a very slow but incremental progress with the UFS and she is hopeful that it will lead to some legislative power. Ron, asked if there was a vision for the UFS. Frank said that it takes a long time to agree as body, let alone drafting something to give to the administration. Margaret wondered if the UFS could anticipate how the administration might need us next. Richard H. said that TNS is a tuition driven institution and
can help with student retention. Christian said the UFS could come up with proposals that will help the university with issues of retention. Adria agreed but felt that that will require a more dynamic UFS that is more participatory. Erin said she tired of the administration using the financial situation as an excuse and she felt like the senate should focus on an action plan. It would help the UFS be taken more seriously. Scott told the CoPA deans that he wasn’t coming back to deans meeting, which he is being compensated for, until remuneration issue was resolved at the UFS.

IV. Minutes

Adria asked for a motion to approve the minutes from May’s meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.