Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 11, 2016

Attending:
Charles Allison, SPE, Co-Chair
Adria Benjamin, CoPA, Co-Chair
Craig Bernecker, Parsons
Ron Caldwell, Parsons
Erin Cho, Parsons
Margaret Fiore, SPE
Danielle Goldman, Lang
Richard Harper, CoPA
Nicolas Langlitz, NSSR
Mark Larrimore, Lang
Frank Nemhauser, CoPA
Derek Porter, Parsons
Richard Salcer, Parsons
Christian Schneider, Parsons
Candy Schulman, SPE
Luciana Scrutchen, Parsons, Co-Chair
Sara Villa, SPE
Scott Whitehurst, CoPA
Jennifer Wilson, Lang

Not Attending:
Julie Boyd, CoPA
Josh Furst, Lang
Margarita Gutman, SPE
Rachel Heiman, SPE
JY Song, CoPA

Charles began meeting. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made. Then it was seconded and approved.

I. Status of the Standing Committees.

Luciana reported about the request to have the UFS pursue a stronger relationship/presence with the Board of Trustees. Adria noted that Tim said there was a difference between students and faculty, that they are different stakeholders, tuition paying students vs. employees. She also said that it took more than an academic year for the students to successfully get a spot on the BoT. Adria proposed doing some research on how it works at other schools. Luciana was trying to decide what standing committee should pursue this.

Discussion:
Ron felt that the UFS should push for both FTF and PTF representation. Charles felt that the UFS was not going to get representation on TNS Board of Trustees, if we didn’t push for it. Adria said that once the co-chairs do some research then the UFS can pass a resolution to share with the president and the provost. Afterwards, Luciana felt it the issue could sit with Academic Affairs.
Luciana also reported on the issue of new academic programs that were touched on at the previous UFS meeting. The co-chairs brought this up with senior leadership. Tim was very supportive of having a conversation with faculty about how programs are launched and he admitted that they needed to figure out a more streamlined way to communicate this information. Adria felt like it was very important to push for better communications.

**Discussion:**
Margaret reported about a work space issue on the 3rd floor on 66 West. The work area and mailboxes were moved without any consultation with the faculty. She felt like the faculty were the last consideration. Jennifer brought up an idea about developing an intranet for faculty to put up works in progress in relation to program development. Danielle said that new programs need to be presented to the UCC. The problem was that lots of work happened before it got to that point. Luciana would like to see a parody of space consideration in conjunction with program development. Charles reported that Lillian Satori of Academic Technology wanted to reach out to faculty to ensure that there is open communication.

II. PTF Affairs Committee Update Reported by Richard Salcer

Richard reported that the PTF Affairs Committee met at the end of September and put together a list of concerns:

- pay for work on UFS, but that issue seemed to be resolved
- stronger communication with population that is not on UFS to keep other PTF informed
- talked about PTF being a co-chair, but that was resolved with an update to the bylaws
- matter of unfilled UFS seats

**Discussion:**
Nicolas mentioned that NSSR did talked about their vacancies but the dean could not get any faculty to take a seat. Some faculty alluded to child care issues as the main reason. He said he would circulate literature about child care time management that was shared at NSSR. Richard S. asked if the UFS could administer elections. Adria did not feel that would work. Derek felt like a good system was put in place at Parsons. Jennifer noted that Lang faculty manage elections for PTF and FTF. SPE was confirmed to do the same for PTF and FTF. Richard H. said that Jazz elections were run through Local 802 union. Frank said that Mannes faculty ran elections at Mannes and Scott said that Drama elections were conducted by the administration. Adria suggested coming up with one protocol for all the colleges to follow. Margaret suggested making an announcement at the spring town hall about vacancies in the following semester. Adria also felt it would be effective to have the bargaining units reach out to PTF about the UFS.

III. Co-Hosting University Finance Town Hall

Charles said that the finance town hall was expected to be just like the regular town hall except organized around the school’s finances. The UFS was asked to come up with three questions to present at the town hall. The questions need to send by next Tuesday. The town hall will take place on November 4, 10am-11.30am. The event will be live streamed.

**Discussion:**
Erin asked that they define what they mean by “co-hosting.” Luciana said she would try to get some more clarity about that. Erin asked who was sitting on the budget committee. It used to be Sven but the co-chairs felt like it would make more sense for a current UFS co-chair to serve on that committee. Sven will be present at the president and provost meeting later in the day to discuss retroactive payment for PTF senators so the co-chairs will ask him about this then. Richard H. had some potential topics to ask questions about: no understanding of allocation for pool of scholarships or how that is distributed and constant discussion at Jazz with problems they have with re-fitting practice rooms for sound proofing. Luciana said that she will solicit responses via email. Danielle suggested expressing gratefulness to be asked to participate in this as a way to underscore/suggest further involvement on other issues.

IV. Report from Nicolas Allanach, Staff Senate

Nicola Allanach reported that the Staff Senate had been meeting bi-weekly for the last year. They conducted a survey about the changing of summer Fridays and the building hours and will be sharing the results of the survey later this month. He pointed out that the building hours were a shared concern with the faculty. The Staff Senate would like to put together meeting of co-chairs from the staff, faulty, and student senates to discuss shared concerns. He mentioned that an item that was high on the Staff Senate’s list of concerns was software implantation. The Staff Senate would like to put together survey about My Day to understand how staff and faculty were engaging with the system. Overall the Staff Senate would like to see more of an overlap of items of concern. There will be an information session on October 25. Nick said that he would send along the summer Friday survey to the co-chairs. He hoped to post the results of the survey on the Staff Senate site. He said that Tokumbo said that the administration would be willing to adjust the schedule if it was concluded that there were real issues.

V. Report from Ann-Louise Shapiro, Ombuds

Ann-Louise came to New School in 2001 as dean of SPE. She then became faculty and taught mostly at Lang and NSSR. She started full-time as Ombuds at the end of August. She reported that the office is designed to be a place where people can have informal, confidential and impartial conversations, excluding anything that a contract may supersede. She said her job was to be a good listener and provide resources. She said that she could also help facilitate difficult conversations or act as mediator. She also pointed out that this resource should not be a last resort. She said she was collecting information about the way things work at the university. After she collected it she hoped to analyze it and bring it to senior leadership to investigate further. The notion of fairness across the university is complicated but she said that she hoped to help be a force of progressive change. A golden rule of Ombuds is “Always consult before deciding,” Ombuds cannot be part of a formal process. Her office cannot initiate a formal complaint. Here office is located at 66 West 12th Street, 7th floor. She could be reached by phone at 646-830-0530 or email at shapiroa@newschool.edu or ombuds@newschool.edu.

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