University Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Attendance:

Zed Adams, NSSR
Elaine Abelson, Lang
Charles Allison, SPE
Banu Bargu, NSSR
Adria Benjamin, Co-Chair, Performing Arts
Julie Boyd, Performing Arts
Erin Cho, Parsons
Josh Furst, Lang
Danielle Goldman, Lang
Richard Harper, Performing Arts
Rachel Heiman, SPE
David Lopato, Performing Arts
Frank Nemhauser, Performing Arts
Richard Salcer, Parsons
Barry Salmon, Co-Chair, SPE
Elaine Savory, Lang,
Candy Schulman, SPE
Earl Scott, Parsons
Luciana Scrutchen, Parsons
Carlos Teixeira, Parsons
Sven Travis, Co-Chair, Parsons
Marcus Turner, SPE
Jurgen Von Mahs, Lang
Jennifer Wilson, Lang
Inessa Zartesky, Performing Arts

Also Attending:

Janis Schonauer, Ombuds

Not Attending:

Margaret Fiore, SPE

I. Adria called the meeting to order and asked if there was any discussion about the minutes. She then asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and then approved.

Barry led a brief discuss of the recent University Town Hall. He reported that the graudate students were discussing unionizing and he felt that it was important for the UFS to discuss it.
The Student Senate had already come out as in favor of it. Barry felt that the outspoken students at the town hall made the president look bad. The main issue for the students is the capacity to negotiate pay. Right now the unionization request is before the National Labor Relations Board. TNS has the choice to recognize the union or not and for now it is choosing not to. Sven wanted the UFS to make a request to get more information about what the students are after. He wondered if it also had to do with workload, benefits, or pay issues. The UFS needs to stay informed. Adria suggested that the UFS co-chairs reach out to the co-chairs of the USS. Sven, made a motion to reach out and get more information and have the USS co-chairs at the next meeting. The motion was seconded and then approved.

Elaine S. brought up an issue that students are having with buying books from Barnes and Noble. Sven suggested that the co-chairs bring this issue up with the PO and the president at their next meeting. Jennifer was interested in knowing how many faculty were still even using Barnes and Noble. Zed suggested taking an informal poll about usage. Informal poll was taken by a show of hands. The poll suggested that most faculty on the UFS do not use Barnes and Noble.

Adria announced that there was a Finance Forum at noon in Orozco and that the UFS was welcomed to attend.

II. Subcommittee Reports

PO FTF Affairs Committee Report from Elaine A.

-Talked about Lyerati roll out. 25% of faculty attended training sessions. Question about how the database is going to be used. Taxonomy was developed by TNS, and is still evolving. The goal is to work on annual report.
-Parental leave is on the agenda, policy is going to change in the future.
-Ombuds is on campus one week a month. Level of need is still unclear. Graduate students have asked for Ombuds resources.
-Salary issues, banding study, trying to correct the faculty who fall below the median
-Faculty Handbook, issues about RTA faculty, them standing for EE, what the levels of excellence are.
-White paper on service.

UFS FTF Affairs Committee Report from Rachel

-Wage and salary, draft letter to Tim and Bryna, asking for banding information, will send the draft around for the UFS to see, not a major demand, just a starting point.
-Question about the PO FTF affairs committee, how it gets selected, and how things get brought up, discussed.
-Question about Lyterati, not just about database but about how reviewers get selected.
-No names signed on letter, will just be from the committee as a whole.

UFS PTF Affairs Committee Report from David
-PTF has not met, meeting will be arranged.

Academic Affairs Committee Report from Erin
-Not present, no report.

Learning Environments Committee from Richard S.

-Three charges: physical environments, virtual environments, targeted curricular issues.
-Identify counterparts across university and see if possible to work with them.
-Also maybe invite Lia Gartner to come and give updates about space arrangements around the university.
-There are bookable cubicle space available for faculty available on campus.
-Discussed lots of space issues at 55 West 13th with the combination of Performing Arts.
-Discussion about renovations to Parsons building where Gimbal Library used to be.
-Luciana Scrutchen will be permanent chair of the committee.

Sven said that he was asked to serve on committee that is looking at IT in general across the university and that the committee asked that he inquire if the UFS Learning Environments committee could do a survey of faculty’s feedback of facilities. Sven will direct the Information Technology Advisory Committee toward Luciana.

Senate Affairs Committee Report from Frank

-Make sure that each division has all its senators, contacting representatives of each college to make sure that elections are happening.
-Reach out to senators if they miss two consecutive meetings to find out what is going on.
-Question about number of senators now that Performing Arts is a college, bylaws are not really clear.
-Write a brief history of the senate and each year hold brief meeting with new senators to give them some context.

Sven made a motion that the Senate Affairs Committee work on the reconfiguration of numbers for Performing Arts for UFS representatives. It was also suggested that it should also be done for all the schools. A motion was seconded and approved.

Finance Committee Report
-Did not meet.

Jurgen felt that it was important to follow up about FTF raises now if they were going to be put in place by January.

Sven wondered if it was the Senate Affairs Committee’s purview to resolve subcommittee assignments or other university committees assignments. He said that he needed to look into it.

Frank asked if anyone wanted to serve on Provost Research Committee. Barry volunteered.
III. UFS Action Decision Motions

A motion was made at the last meeting that deans are required to meet with UFS representatives at least once a semester to discuss budgetary issues. The question now was how does this get implemented. This goes for all action items, not just this one. The PO and the president need to communicate with the deans that they need to meet with UFS members once a semester. It should be mandated.

The president and the PO will be holding breakfasts again this year for the UFS on October 30 and November 3. Stayed tuned for more information.

Adria asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made, then seconded and approved.