University Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Attending:
Charles Allison, SPE, Co-Chair
Adria Benjamin, CoPA, Co-Chair
Craig Bernecker, Parsons
Julie Boyd, CoPA
Erin Cho, Parsons
Margaret Fiore, SPE
Danielle Goldman, Lang
Margarita Gutman, SPE
Richard Harper, CoPA
Rachel Heiman, SPE
Mark Larrimore, Lang
Frank Nemhauser, CoPA
Derek Porter, Parsons
Richard Salcer, Parsons
Christian Schneider, Parsons
Candy Schulman, SPE
JY Song, CoPA
Luciana Scrutchen, Parsons, Co-Chair
Sara Villa, SPE
Scott Whitehurst, CoPA
Jennifer Wilson, Lang

Not Attending:
Ron Caldwell, Parsons
Josh Furst, Lang
Nicolas Langlitz, NSSR

I. Finance Report from Tokumbo Shobowale and Steve Stabile

Tokumobo and Steve presented slide from TNS Quarterly Financial Reporting package and answered questions from the UFS.

II. Approval of Minutes from November Meeting

Luciana asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made, then seconded and approved.

III. Follow Up about Statement UFS Issued about Incident in Dorms

Luciana asked if there were any further comments about the statement that the UFS issued about the incident in the dorms.

Discussion:
Adria said that the UFS email received several emails in reply that were a little disgruntled but that she responded to all concerns in a sensitive way. Julie said that she forwarded the response to students who were thinking of applying and it calmed the students. Julie said she felt grateful to have the statement to forward. She also wondered if the UFS should be ready in the event of another incident to issue a statement. Adria said that the UFS could convene a special meeting or have co-chairs draft a statement and send it to the UFS for edits. Julie suggested setting up an online meeting too. Mark pointed out that the UFS would have language from the recent statement that could be used in other contexts. Margarita had a student who lived in the dorms was in her class and she found it hard to comfort them.

IV. Report about FTF Salary Increase Communications

Luciana reported about FTF salary increases communications. The co-chairs assumed that there would be some communication from the president’s office but no communication was sent out. Bryna attended the FTF Affairs Meeting last week and she said that there is a draft communication but nothing has been communicated yet. Luciana assumed that some sort of standardized process would be set and communicated. She wondered if the pool of money was so small that it didn’t really merit a separate communication. Luciana said she was going to address it at the next co-chairs meeting with the president and the provost.

Discussion:
Margarita shared an email from the faculty meeting at SUS that discussed the issue of raises. They felt that they shouldn't use the merit pool to adjust faculty salaries who are underpaid. They felt that the decision shouldn't be left until the last minute. The provost office should be making adjustments to faculty salaries and not use merit monies for that purpose. One senators didn't like the use of the language “standard of living increase” or “merit” to describe salary increases. It should just be called a baseline increase. Margaret said that she has heard reports that merit increases don’t have as much of a positive effect as people think. Jennifer said that she has heard that the BoT insists that raises be linked to merit. Adria asked Margarita to forward email from SUS to co-chairs.

V. Follow Up From Breakfast At President's House

Luciana asked for comments or feedback about breakfasts that the president hosted.

Discussion:
Richard S. asked if Adria felt that the senators brought up good topics for discussion. Adria said yes. She said it felt like faculty were bringing up good topics to challenge the president.

VI. Luciana’s Continued Role on UFS

It was reported that elections were finally held at Parsons. Parsons was short three senators. Two new faculty were elected and Luciana was elected as alternate. The UFS needed to decide if the new senators should start in the spring or in the fall. They also needed to decide how this would affect Luciana’s role as co-chair.

Discussion:
Frank wondered about Luciana’s role as co-chair. Parsons said that once Luciana completed the role she has committed to then the new senators can start. Adria would like to see Luciana continue as co-chair through the spring semester but would like to communicate to Parsons that the way they handled
elections was very poor. Adria asked for a motion to respond to the PFC. Luciana felt that the communication should lead off with language about how the UFS was grateful for the election process. Frank suggested that just the co-chairs respond. Derek suggested that the entire senate reply. Margarita felt that all UFS respond. Craig said the UFS did something wrong by electing a senator as co-chair whose term was over before having elections for the 16-17 year. Adria didn’t feel that the fault lied with the UFS. She felt that the fault lied with the college who didn’t hold the elections last spring. Frank said maybe it should come down to a vote about Luciana to continue. Luciana stepped out of the room. Julie asked if it should be a vote by the PFC. Christian said that there was no ill will with the PFC. Derek suggested having a conversation at their meeting this morning. Frank made a motion to ask the PFC to have one of the newly elected faculty serve as alternate so Luciana can continue in her role though the academic year. The motion was seconded and approved. Craig said that he felt they were setting a dangerous precedent to have senators who aren’t elected serve. Craig was concerned about the role of the senate. One senator felt like the UFS should separate out concerns about the senate. Charles said that we learned something from this and they the UFS could police better in the future. Frank said that the next time around the UFS wouldn’t elect senators whose terms were ending to be co-chairs.

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