Parsons Faculty Council

9:15-11:00

In Attendance:
Craig Bernecker (Chair), Thomas Werner(Chair), Aaron Fry, Christian Schneider, Timo Rissanen, Anezka Sebek, Thomas Bosket, Ethan Robey, Fiona Dieffenbacher, Derek Porter.

April 8, 2014
PFC Meeting

- Bylaws Vote update. A second electronic ballot was sent as a follow up for those who have not voted. PFC reps will collect paper ballots as well. Bring paper ballots to Thomas Werner, 66 Fifth Ave., 7th floor, rm 719.

Advising Wrap-up-Anezka
Peer Mentoring is still in progress and waiting for budgetary allocation.
Note: 11 Minors are being announced by the Curriculum Committee. This will have an effect on the advising and work load.

The PFC’s role in creating the advising model is complete. The sharing of information across schools and the facilitation of the model brings the project to conclusion on the council.

Request from SDS
SDS faculty are interested in a broader and deeper budget presentation. A request was made for more information regarding the Parsons and University budgets.

This was based on a motion that came forth during an SDS FTF meeting during a general discussion regarding revenues. The sentiment was that the budget numbers presented did not present a clear picture of the budget and how funds are allocated. SDS faculty unanimously asked their representatives to bring a request for more budget information to the PFC. Including: How is the NS revenue distributed among the schools? How does it impact our functioning at each school?

Questions arose over whether FTF can call a meeting within their school, and specifically whether PFC representatives may call a meeting of FTF (including school deans) within their school. The sentiment was that any FTF may call a meeting. A request will go to Joel for clarification. Should this be in the by laws?

Discussion over how to better utilize the school meetings to reduce emotional responses to issues and develop more informed responses. How do we better address faculty actions and concerns? How do we engage faculty who are passive?
PFC reps should be present at each FTF meeting in every school. This should include time for discussion. Some schools do not allow time to discuss faculty issues. This contributes to faculty reacting to issues within a short timeline as opposed to a more measured and valuable discussion.

The PFC will work to develop consistent protocols for addressing issues that are brought forth from school meetings. In general the PFC may need to develop a more bottom up approach including broader faculty input.

Noted: The School of Fashion does not have regular meetings of the FTF throughout the semester.

**COACHE Survey**
PFC has asked the co-chairs to make a formal request for the COACHE survey, as it has been almost a year since its completion by faculty. Faculty were promised access to the COACHE survey.

**Workload**
TEACHING – 12 hr. studio is only at 2.5, and a 6 hr. studio is at 2 credits. PFC members felt this was disproportionate. The measurement of course weight will be part of the workload discussion over the coming year.

**Elections**
2 Representatives and one alternate need to be elected for the Senate

A discussion regarding seats filled PFC members who step down during their terms. When can someone step down from the PFC? APT bylaws note someone can be excused from service to the APT only due to a change of responsibility. What might this include? Appointment to a Dean’s Position or Associate Dean?

Rotation of co-chairs to ensure new leadership and an informed council

Election process; Call for nominations; election timeframe

**Handbook Committee**
PFC reps should help guide the faculty discussions.
Issues raised need to be taken back to the faculty for discussion
People being charged with information gathering:
Subcommittee tasks:
  1. Where are your responsibilities in relation to faculty responsibilities?
2. Should benefits reside in the handbook? HR – PFA healthcare—changing nature of health insurance (costs/benefits)
3. Sabbaticals—paid academic leave now. How sabbaticals have changed.
5. Age of retirement
6. FT faculty omnibus person—This was brought up to Tim at our first PFA meeting.

**Setting the agenda for next year**
Faculty driven issues.