

Faculty meeting
Wednesday, 11 December 2024
Sudakoff

Recorded attendance:

Faculty: Aguila-Ames, Alcock, Bailey, Barton, Bauer, Bedgood, Brion, Carrasco, Clark, Clore, Crow, Edwards, Ellis, Fennie, Flakne, Gilchrist, Gong, Gorup, Harley, Hicks, Hubbard, Khemraj, Kottke, Leme, Levell, Li, Loveland, Manzur-Leiva, McDonald, Mercedo-Harvey, Myhill, O'Donnel, Palumbo, Park, Pirone, Portugal, Roy, Ryba, Rycyk, Schalles, Serban, Sharifian, Shi, Skripnikov, Sprenger, Sutherland, Tabatabaie, Thompson, Toro-Farmer, Vyas, Yu, Zhang (Jienian)

Guests/Staff: Corocoran, Harvey, Lopez-Zafra, McGrath, Mikkelsen, Noss, Rohrbacher, Wen

Co-Chair of the Faculty (Portugal) called meeting to order at 15:32

Approval of Minutes

- At a regular monthly meeting of the New College Faculty held on the 11th day of December, 2024, at Sudakoff Auditorium, the reading of the minutes from the 13rd day of September, 2024 meeting was dispensed with, as members were provided a copy of the minutes prior to the meeting
 - Motion to approve minutes as amended (Ellis)
 - Seconded (Kottke)
 - Discussion—corrections shown. Harvey noted gen-ed decision tree was not correct. Hicks noted minor change in email sent prior to meeting.
 - Ayes have it. Approved.

Reports

President

- Foundation meeting
- On the internal front
 - We have a new Provost. (David Rohrbacher)
 - Provost working with us.
 - Core curriculum
 - We have 10 core courses of which 5 driven by state
 - Odyssey led by classics faculty
 - Enduring human questions for other courses
 - Can change these in the future, if we don't like what we have
 - Hiring
 - New and existing positions for next year
 - Planning on 25 new professors
 - Going through process of deciding, advertising, and interviewing
 - Prospective students
 - Hired admissions people to help with recruiting

- They've been having meetings with counselors and principles throughout the state and even country in some cases
 - On pace with enrolment from last year
 - Presently GPA average is 4.0; SAT scores 1200 or greater.
 - Want to bring top students,
 - Those with SAT 1280 and above with Bright Futures will have full ride
 - New admissions/recruiting staff met with Rancourt.
 - Governor is staying as governor, which is good for us
 - He is still there for us; we're lucky
 - Almost end of struggle for college
 - February may see some progress in money
- Foundation meeting
 - Entrenched persons in community supportive
 - 1 million dollar from one donor; BOT approves next week
 - 5 million from alumni from 25 to 27 alumni
 - These people are in the governor's circle; helpful for the college
 - Foundation has reduced its cost by 3%
 - Endowment up 6 million from when Corcoran came
 - Scholarships from the state government this past year, so some of the financial savings in spending is because of that
- Pritzker, volleyball, greenhouse projects are almost completed
 - Baseball field construction beginning soon (located at former car museum site)
 - Maintenance around the campus continues
 - 7 years of disposed air filters on top of roof
 - Many Heiser problems due to roof
 - 58th street, developing to get rooms quickly
 - Is in Master Plan, so easier to do
- Next 5 months will be 'game-changing' time for college
- If one finds a job, get offer, then come to us to get a counter offer (from president)
 - Also do extra work (like Odyssey)
 - He doesn't want to lose faculty
 - Lead in with prospective students and parents:
 - How to be a great citizen, thinking, want you to fail, etc
 - Teach grit and adversity
- Sept 2025, administration will support current system
 - But some changes will be necessary
 - For example registration may differ
 - Minicourses might not be as great as before due to logistics
- Thesis students can stay at housing during ISP.
 - Students need to pay for housing (if not being part of ISP and or thesis)
- Questions
 - Hicks
 - In Tallahassee, is there any information or discussion on buildings for faculty and classrooms, with increased in size of student body and faculty?
 - Corcoran. Can't promise not, but in March will know more
 - Regarding the Foundation, how well are they doing?
 - They've swept money from endowed chair funds,
 - Taxes for food for taking candidates out, etc is on the onus of faculty
 - Can we get that policy reversed
 - SRTG doesn't have a lot of money
 - Corcoran. What did the school spend in the last several years? Better be greater now.
 - Point: he wants to come up with money

Provost [Rohrbacher]

- Thanks to Lopez-Zafra, Zamsky, and Rancourt for helping
 - Structures and systems were put in place which has helped to onboard
 - Thanks to Corcoran and other people who sent best wishes
- Learning about system at this point
- So far he feels things are going well.
 - He's been working with finance etc. Renewed research/startup funds for tenure faculty \$6000 this year and next through the Faculty Budget and Planning Committee. Tomorrow will send email explaining how to apply
- Post tenure review
 - About half of faculty need to go through it
 - It is a bit of a mess at this point
 - In the future it shouldn't be too bad as it reduction in reviews go down
 - This round
 - Going from 7 year review to 5 year review
 - Division Chairs must rank (based on criteria in CBA).
 - Faculty can determine how those criteria are applied in review
 - Need a process that faculty feel they were evaluated fairly, and that one can receive "exceeds expectation" if they do
 - They won't be forced into an a priori distribution
 - Handing over to chairs
- Pre tenure review
 - In January will have a pre-tenure faculty meeting to help faculty know what is expected of them, how to prepare, etc.
- Gen-ed
 - Thanks to Flakne and Ellis for their work
 - Agrees that we need more gen-ed classes, including enduring human questions; and also techne courses in fields like econ and science
 - President is clear that it is not a completed project, we can keep revising etc
 - EHQ by means of great books is great
 - But faculty should be able to determine themselves what are the 'great books' etc for their classes -- Not just fixed canonical sources
 - In January want to talk about intro to techne
 - Modelling classes, classes that are scalable, and staffed in a way that is not too disruptive to faculty
 - Need to meet applied knowledge skills requirement
 - Other courses? There is an opportunity to expand the classes
 - Intro and higher levels
 - Hiring in writing center to meet needs
 - Asking for volunteers to serve on search committee
 - Let Wells and Rohrbacher know if interested
 - Masters in education
 - New director going to be hired
 - Need faculty to work with them, call for volunteers
- Graduation at opera house.
 - How do people feel about having it there. Concern about heat when on the Bay.
 - Bay or opera house, let provost know preferences
- Narrative evaluations
 - Try to get done by Wednesday; later puts a lot of work on staff
 - Staff has to recalibrate system (roll over for financial aid)
- Request by Lopez-Zafra for a 2 or 4 year schedule for AOC courses for planning
 - Need to know what will be offered

- For transfers it is much more problematic; need to know
 - For some disciplines is not an issue, but others it is important
 - Depending on specificity of the required courses
- Extra attention to advising preparation for coaches and new faculty
- Vesperi
 - Unanimously voted as Professor Emerita
- Questions
 - Sandra
 - Evaluations. Large classes by administration increasing enrolment. Is hard to have evaluations done by when needed
 - Rohrbacher said that he has a plan for that and will keep faculty up to date
 - Amy
 - Why designations are needed is understood, but why the narratives?
 - Rorhabacher. Narrative is needed, because it is like changing a grade, so it's a lot of work
 - Some faculty will make deadline and some not.
 - This will be addressed later
 - Khameraj
 - How is it divided into five groups (20%) with differing timing on 7-year reviews
 - Rorhabacher. Those coming up for 7-year review, will be evaluated on the 5 most recent years, not all 7
 - Crow
 - Techne courses
 - Best way to do learn science is to do science. If techne is meant to focus on craft, skill, & technology, then students need to be actively engaging with science and/or technology.
 - We need to consider how to scale that type of teaching
 - Assessing student understanding of those topics at scale is challenging,
 - AI ("emerging technologies" and "current problems in science") are constantly changing, this is not a course that can be developed once and then re-taught. It will likely need to be updated each summer.
 - There needs to be resources for it to address the updating and teaching the course
 - Myhill
 - As post-tenure review changes to five years, asks Provost to ensure it is in faculty handbook
 - How information and actions are communicated need to get into the faculty handbook, because the CBA and faculty handbook are becoming more and more separate. We can't have a ghost system--especially since administration is taking on more stuff.
 - Regarding gen-ed. There are a couple of different things.
 - It has to work for state, which is cumbersome, but predictable.
 - But, also faculty must approve.
 - Faculty doesn't need to know whether a specific course works or not (ie details)
 - But what is important is to have a big framework perspective.
 - It is important that framework issues go to faculty before decisions are made
 - Rohrbacher responded that he wants rules and not specific courses, etc. That is his hope.

co-Chair report (McDonald)

- Countries of concern. State statute, BOG, institutions
 - Trend for institutions to interpret the law conservatively.
 - Cannot co-author papers with people in countries of concern
 - McDonald asks us to think about who we want to hire
- Attestation statements
 - New requirement
 - For all of the material required for the course, you must sign an attestation statement that you have reviewed all course material and deemed the information appropriate and not biased (namely but not limited to anti-semitism).
 - Came about by a course at FIU adopting a course book that used banked AI questions, one question of which was considered anti-semitic. This has led to implementation of attestation statements
 - Be on lookout for it
- Advise faculty to review the BOT meeting (19-Nov-24) video
 - New vision statement
 - Dissonant context was created as a result
 - Charged to seek the good, the beautiful, and the true
 - We think that is what we do anyway
 - Encourages us to think about and talk about this a lot.
 - Review (post-tenure)
 - Thanks union
- Questions
 - Faculty member concerned about himself because of his citizenship. Can he publish? Also, he heard it is going to change in legislature (for better or worse).
 - Judaism courses. What do we do if we read material, but don't agree with it. How to we deal with it?
 - McDonald said that if they find it antisemitic, the administration will go after it
 - Sutherland. If assign book, but there is other content in it (eg Germany), what do we do?
 - McDonald suggested to just assign chapters not books, make clear in syllabus
 - Will this new requirement include more than anti-semitism?
 - McDonald said that it will be more, that was just the initial trigger
 - We need to do something about this.
 - Internal review process
 - More we talk, more problems we find
 - Comment. Grew up in dictatorship. This sounds very similar

Co-Chair Report (Portugal)

- Faculty hiring
 - Stress for people involved in hiring
 - This will take a lot of coordination with chairs and committees
 - New lines, we need to work within our areas and as a college so that we are very thoughtful. Calls on EPC to help.
- Motion (Hicks)
 - Agreed at AAC: In agenda "Recommend thesis contract be done in 6th not 5th year

- Seconded by Clore
- Discussion
 - Myhill, recognize that handbook says it must be in 6th contract. So she suggests we abide by, not actually change, the faculty handbook.
 - Brion, handed down by administration, but isn't working well.
- Ayes have it. Motion carried

EPC

- Myhill. In handbook there is a process to make new lines.
 - Every three years done via handbook. What is most reasonable to include
 - Provost expressed support.
 - EPC will be putting out set of guidelines, etc for everyone.
 - Discuss in Division meetings, etc. How might we grow, etc.
 - Create proposals in an organized semester long process.
 - Come up with a set of proposals.
 - Faculty→EPC→Provost→President.
 - Will be started in January.
 - McDonald pointed out that faculty lines is a good way to get a way of talking about and educating other faculty

FBSC

- Portugal. Committee report posted on Canvas

Other reports

Registrar (Noss)

- Power point provided with detailed information
- Friday is deadline for cross campus registration.
 - Ringling not participating this year. Just SCF
- FAQs
 - SCF, students can no longer take just lab courses. They are part of one course, must take both lab and lecture
 - CCA courses do not show up on transcript
- Key deadlines
 - Course designations okay (SAT/UNSAT/INC)
 - But IT needs to adjust system, until then have to do a grade change form
 - Tight deadline this year
 - Need all this in timely manner so that SAP form can run
 - This, then determines if students can come back if they've unsatted etc.
 - Incompletes are important
 - Count as an unsat
 - Roll on 18th (begin) 2:00pm. When sponsor can see it as well as student.
 - Allows sponsor to start certifying
 - Continue to roll them throughout
 - Big change
 - Autocertify the contracts.
 - If one entered information (certs etc) before autocertify then okay

- Otherwise, if criterion has certain terms, it can change certification (eg will set as incomplete into unSat,
 - So faculty has to look and check with things.
- *(Review PowerPoint slides for more detailed information)*
- Questions
 - Barton
 - Asking about dates
 - 19th at 2:00. After that, it will be visible to student and sponsor. So can keep entering
 - Between 18th and 23rd, we need to go through grade change process. So will need to do, if adding evaluations (narratives). Due at 5:00 on 23rd.
 - Noss. Note: there may be a lag between Friday and Tuesday which may confuse students who look at record during that period.
 - Crow
 - Admitted that she will not have things done by then because of her large classes.
 - Noss and Lopez-Zafrá
 - They expect these issues
 - It is okay, they realize that not everyone will be able to meet the deadlines
 - Noss would prefer that we enter and do grade changes over waiting until all the narratives are done.
 - Need to look at all of this in SES and how we do evals.

AI

- Manzur-Leiva. Need working group to work on AI issues.
 - Call for volunteers. Let her know know.

Adjournment

- Motion made to adjourn (Hicks).
- Seconded
- Ayes have it
- Meeting ended 17:00