Minutes - December 14, 2009 CAS Faculty Senate Meeting, 104 Gore Hall

Meeting called to order at 4:04pm


Absent: Ussery, Skeen, Cherrin, Ridge, Kaufman
Excused: Chen, Randolph, Sun, Burton, Amer, Meyer, Barrier
Guests: David Barlow, Ed Larkin

Minutes
I. Consent Agenda
   a. Approval of the agenda for 12/14/09 meeting
   b. Approval of the minutes from 11/16/09 meeting
   c. Other items from Steering Committee
      i. Educational Affairs

Passed as presented.

II. President's Remarks (John Pelesko)

Happy holiday season and Happy New Year. Reflecting on the holidays, Pelesko contemplated communicating the notion of shared governance with friends and family. It is a remarkable responsibility and privilege. Applause.

III. Dean's Remarks (George Watson)  Assessment / Beth Paul Memo

Dean Watson read the letter from the Provost regarding assessment, noting the judgment by an external consultant that UD is out of compliance with regard to the assessment of student learning at the University level. In the context of the Middle States re-accreditation process, we will need to assess student learning in the area of General Education in order to be able to better communicate and reinforce the importance the importance of the Liberal Arts and Sciences and general Education to the University. Our assessment fellows have worked to assess student outcomes within the majors, but we now need to extend this to the University’s General Education goals.

Comment: this important process shouldn’t be rushed although it appears there is a crisis.

IV. Business Arising from Standing Committees
   a. Educational Affairs
      i. Changes to requirements for MATH Masters and PhD (4 motions): - passed 21, 0, 1
ii. Courses with layers and layers of prerequisites may not be recertified as Breadth Requirements; these will be reviewed in January.

b. COCAN

i. COCAN is soliciting suggestions for a replacement member for the P&T committee from the Social Sciences

c. Promotion & Tenure: Lynette Overby will replace Marian Palley as Chair of P&T committee for the Spring Semester

d. Diversity: Pat DeLeon reported on many relevant changes in the area of diversity this year. There is a Climate Survey sent out by the Diversity Action Council with input from many constituencies. A consulting firm is consulting with the Dean Search Committee to assure full consideration of diversity issues, and diversity efforts in recruiting and retention are moving to the forefront.

V. New Business

a. (Lindsay H. Hoffman) Re: a proposal to require advising appointments for students each semester: faculty are concerned about the time and resources that will be called for under this proposal. Watson responded that the problem emanates from first year students modifying their first-semester schedule without due consultation. It is hoped that there will be a task force assembled to design a system of advisement that works for students and faculty. Discussion: faculty aren't able to make all the changes or recommendations a student might need, for example transfer credits, placement.

VI. Announcements

a. Faculty award nomination deadline (due in the Dean's Office) 12/22
Rise suggested that the Committee for Advisement and Retention should take this up with the Provost's Office and coordinate with other units. Watson and Rise will contact the Provost to discuss.

b. John Sawyer is rescheduled for the March meeting. Deborah Hess Norris will speak at the February meeting about the graduate programs.