

Faculty Senate Meeting 2/5/08

Meeting called to order 3:37, LARTS 117

Announcement of changes of dates for Spring meetings. All meetings will be held in Faculty Dining Room, Wed 3/5, Mon 4/7 and Thurs 5/1

March meeting Gen Ed Assessment Task Force will be presenting their first report which will be a progress report. The Chancellor or Provost Garro will be discussing the work of the task force analyzing teacher preparation and teacher professional development programs. The recommendations will be brought to the Senate for advice and recommendations. It will either be a presentation or request for feedbacks.

UCC is in need of a Chair. Jen Riley must step down to take a new position in the Women's Study department. This is an essential committee and it is imperative that someone take on the Chair duty. In the interest of shared governance we need to have a commitment.

Approval of Minutes

Jim Griffith moved to approve minutes from 12/3/2007. Motion seconded, minutes approved. Will be posted to the Faculty Senate website.

Paige Gibbs report on the BOT and Inter-faculty council.

The next BOT meeting will be held in Woodland Commons on 3/19 (during Spring Break). The last meeting was held on 12/14, highlighting the President's message focusing on UMass Boston. Chairman Tocco urged the system to match itself to peer institutions and then identify aspirational institutions. He then resigned as Chair, he will instead be focusing on issues important to him. His successor is Rob Manning, who is a UMass graduate.

The IFC meeting was held and there was general consensus about the "off the record" meeting with President Wilson was a success. There were differences between Centers out of the President's office and those defined on campuses. The Centers from the President's office will exist to support cross-campus initiatives. Many of the Centers on campus support faculty research. There are currently no changes to the structure of the on campus centers.

New Initiative for Study Abroad.

Dick Panofsky and Susan Atkins are developing a new program for strengthening study abroad programs. The committee for this initiative is being formed now.

Report from Ethical Standards Committee

Patty White, Chair of the Committee, presents. Takes the opportunity to thank the members of the committee who spent a couple of years on this project and thanked Mary Beckwith, David Millstone and Dick Panofsky for their assistance. The new student academic integrity Policy is now part of the student handbook and is posted to the faculty senate website. There are three levels of reporting and a form that will be used to track reports. The reports go to the Coordinator for Student Judicial Affairs. These reports will be used to track students so that repeat offenders can be identified.

The committee wants to know what is next for the committee? The policy is created so now how does the committee proceed.

This policy has already been approved by the Senate and the Chancellor. The policy is now ready for implementation. This process does not obviate any departmental or faculty policy. This is for infractions that are taken beyond the faculty and puts it into the student judicial process. This is now a systematic response and the process is now defined.

A discussion followed about plagiarism and how to best educate the students about what plagiarism is and how to avoid committing acts of plagiarism. The campus now has Turn It In available. There are many examples of other schools who use various resources to educate students. English 101 requires a text that educates the students on what is plagiarism and how to avoid it.

A suggestion was made to assess how and if faculty are using Turn It In. Just to check in with the faculty to hear about the implementation of this new resource. Perhaps CTE will sponsor a seminar about Turn It In.

A suggestion was made that the Committee now focuses on educating the faculty about the legalities of these new policies and software. The Chair has volunteered to meet with any groups to educate about the new policy.

The Steering Committee will be refining the charges to the Ethical Standards Committee. The students have been informed through multiple sources.

Jean Kim, VC for Student Affairs.

Student Alert Group Engagement (SAGE)

A way to identify, help and support students through a cross campus initiative. A task force of faculty colleagues, and staff. An announcement went out to all faculty with a brief description of the program. The program is open to all faculty, staff and students.

There is a way for all faculty to report their concerns about a student. There is an immediate first response from the Assoc, Dean of Students Mary Beckwith, who will respond acknowledging the report. The SAGE action team will be meeting weekly to address these reports.

There are some examples of the types of behavior that should be reported. To get information early about a student who might be in crisis. The CITS staff has done a fabulous job creating this software. The system has been tested and refined and will go live on 2/19.

To use the system there will be a link on the quick links section of the homepage. To report you will use the students ID or last name. Photographs will be displayed of the students matching that ID or last name. Once you have verified the student you are asked to fill in information about the incident or concern and indicate the level of urgency with the report.

The database will report all the incidents related to a specific students so the Action Team can track multiple reports.

Discussion: The text that you submit and the identity of the person reporting will only be seen by the action team. The student will not have access to the report or the identity of the person reporting.

What protections, if any, will be provided by the reporter from the reportee? If the faculty feel that the reportee might be able to find out who they are they maybe less willing to report.

The FSSC spent a lot of time going through a draft of this document. Where is the alert system for the faculty? If SAGE receives a report from more than one faculty or staff that there is a student in crisis will other faculty be notified? Dr. Kim reports that this will be decided on a “need to know basis” thus other faculty will not be notified unless deemed necessary this is a FERPA guideline. If there is a clear need to know then other faculty will be notified.

If you are taking a student directly from a classroom to the counseling center or other assistance, then take them to that help and report the incident to SAGE. This will keep better track of discrete pieces of knowledge so that a fuller picture of the student will emerge.

Sexual harassment can be reported through SAGE but Provost Garro points out that incidents of sexual harassment need to be report to George Smith and the EEO office. There is a duty to report.

This does not replace existing reporting procedures but is in addition to those. This is a pilot that is being tried for 3 years. It will be assessed and a decision whether or not to continue will be made at that time. Access will be limited to only certain user defined groups.

Are there any legal protections offered to the faculty who use this system? Provost Garro stated that you are protected by your employment. You can never prevent anyone from

filing a suit. Since it is not an educational record it does not fall under FERPA. But these can be subpoenaed so it is best to use descriptive language, etc.

New Student Orientation

There will be six one day sessions in June focusing on registration and placement testing. Ellen Christenson will be in charge of identifying faculty to assist in student advising.

The new component will consist of two of three days on campus before other students arrive. The programming provides comfort, connections and challenges. To introduce a true balance to the activities during those days. The convocation will not be Friday 8/29 which is the Friday before Labor Day. Seeking 50 – 75 faculty members to participate in this portion of the new orientation.

Commencement Update

Dave Millstone updates the plans for commencement. The new format for commencement was changed a bit last year but the overall assessment was that this new model was still not working. We are going back to one central ceremony with a separate ceremony for graduate students on Saturday and a separate ceremony for undergrads on Sunday. The Chancellor has already endorsed this new design, the FSSC has also reviewed this new plan. There would be a separate speaker for the grad students and the honorary degree dinner on Saturday night. This is anticipated to take out 15 - 20% of the people from the Sunday ceremony.

The Sunday ceremony will follow a system currently used at UMass Boston to call the names of students from two colleges simultaneously to keep the event moving. There will still be separate events after for social and photographs will be taken during this time.

Two open Senate Seats

One seat from Nursing and one seat from English

Meeting adjourned at 5:05