FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Minutes

November 18, 2015

Present: J. Blitefield   D. Boerth   D. Borim   Y. Chen
             M. Hall   M. Goodman   R. Flanagan   J. Edwards
             W. Leblanc   P. Cox   E. Hart   A. Hausknecht
             S. Jenkins   N. O'Connor   G. O'Rielly   J. Paraskeva
             A. Revell   D. Roscoe   N. Rubien   K. Saltman
             S. Parayitam   M. Schuler   A. Tandon   P. Walsh
             C. Wang   J. Wang   E. Winiarz

Absent: E. Carreiro   M. Guo   B. Dong   G. Fay
             K. Yong   R. Laoulache S. Macrine   Y. Magrass
             L. Knauer   H. Michel   C. Miraglia   J. Mistler
             S. Ordoobadi   Z. Painter   S. Raidy-Klein
             F. Scarano   G. Wang   S. White   J. Wu
             Y. Zuo

Guests:

    D. Grossman J. Riley   D. Bernal   K. Oliveira   K. Payton
    G. Cowles   A. Tio   J. Buck   A. Dempsey   R. Fisher
    A. Costa   E. Glatman   D. Kasilingam K. Sethares   R. Drew   M. Holloway
    R. Bala   R. Peck   M. Carrera   C. Larkosh   M. Karim   T. Meressi
    A. Narayan   M. Altabet   G. Silva   D. MacDonald A. Klobucka P. Moisander

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of the Minutes from November 2, 2015

Minutes were approved. Adam Hausknecht made a motion to approve the minutes and Shannon
Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion passed.

3. Election of Humanities Representative on Steering Committee

Faculty Senators voted for this Humanities Representative. The two nominees were Dario Borim
and Phil Cox.

Phil Cox was elected to be the Humanities Representative.

4. President's Report

- There are many nominations for the General Education Committee and the University Curriculum Committees. Emails have been sent out to the people who have been nominated to see if they are willing to serve.
- As for the budget, because of the budget shortfall, there are 15 unfilled positions that are going to be eliminated; there will be no search and screens for these positions. There are some ongoing search and screen committees that also may be eliminated.
- Doug Roscoe talked about the new proposal for the College of Education and Lusophone Studies. He talked about the process for proposing new units and went over the processes are for having new units. Doug consulted with the Provost about the stages of this process, and that this particular proposal is in Stage C, where a full proposal should be submitted. (Please see the attached document that Doug included with the agenda for the minutes.
- Joao Paraskeva wanted to thank the Senate for allowing the space to talk about the new proposal. He explained that this proposal was a collaborative proposal from the community. He underlined that it is an organic document. He said that the proposal will soon be submitted to the Provost.

5. Provost's Report

- There will be a review of the SMAST Dean this year. There will be a search for new dean for CVPA.
- Computer refresh: The library, the Scholarly Commons, A few rooms including Room 202 in LARTS.
- The Provost talked about the budgets. He has had meetings with the deans to talk about money.
- Grant O'Rielly asked what percentage of the budget was flexible---was it 10 % or 12 %. The Provost did not give a specific number in response to this question.

6. Recommendations of the Research, Scholarship, and Innovation Advisory Committee

- Anna Klobucka and Amit Tandon gave an update on the Resolutions to the RSI Advisory Committee. They pointed out that they are not the chairs of this committee, but they are members of the RSI Advisory Committee.
- They shared "Myths about RSI Resolutions" including:

  2) "These RSI resolutions favor 'STEM' researchers.

  3) "RSI committee is the Provost's 'mouthpiece.'"

- Facts about RSI Resolutions: They underlined that the RSI was designed to give a voice to those faculty members who are very active in research and scholarship, especially young faculty members who were hired with increased research expectations. They shared that "the RSI committee includes 'feisty' faculty from all Colleges and at all stages of their career."

They presented that these resolutions are not against/bypassing the contract, and that the aim of these RSI resolutions is to allow contract language to be created.

Mike Goodman asked about the cost and what the Federation's position was on the RSI proposal. Amit Tandon explained that it was a pilot program that would cost $300,000 initially.

- Memory Holloway asked for more details about the overall program.
- The Dean of Engineering also asked more about the overall goals of the program.
- Wayne Leblanc also had further questions about the proposed program.
- Grant O'Rielly asked about the populations (in terms of what councils are involved).
- Shannon Jenkins voiced concern about making sure that there was a process. It seems like there is support for a pilot program, but it is not a "stamped" deal. It should not be sent to the Provost with the understanding that it has been completely approved. She also mentioned that it was not clear how the RSI members were established.
- Ken Saltman asked why the Education Academic Council is not represented on the RSI Advisory Council.
- Doug responded that it may have been the situation that people from the Education Academic Council may have been nominated but declined. There is no record of these processes.
- Shannon Jenkins made a motion to accept the recommendation (the four RSI Resolutions) and that the committee task work would be done by the research committee of the faculty senate.
- Memory Holloway seconded this motion.
- Magali Carrera reminded people that these votes must go up through the Board of Trustees.
- Dayalan Kasilingam asked another question about how this would be negotiated with the Faculty Senate in terms of instructional loads. Is this something that is going to be mandated by the chairs?
- Mark Altabet wanted to underline that these course reductions are designed to support new faculty with reduced teaching loads.
- Grant O'Rielly says that it is hard for the Faculty Senate to approve something that is not completely outlined.
- Anna K. explained that there needs to be a policy that covers all Colleges.
- Doug (as a Faculty Senator) talked about the spirit of this RSI Advisory is to carve out more time as a DRU for people to do research. Most faculty at DRU's have a 2-2 load. Doug voiced concern about how part timers would teach the courses that have been released. The fear is that our university becomes a two-track system.
- Jerry Blitefield asked about how research excellence for these rewards is defined. Was it only financial?
- Amit Tandon suggested that we study the ways in which UMass Amherst defines research excellence.

There was a call for a quorum.

Shannon Jenkins explained that a negative quorum call would only be instituted after this vote—but not for this vote in advance (according to Robert's rules).

There were 24 votes for this motion. The motion passed.

- Doug Roscoe asked about the future plans for the RSI Advisory Committee.

7. Other Business

No other business was brought forth for discussion.

- Mike Goodman made a motion to adjourn. Adam Hausknecht seconded the motion.

  The motion passed.