

Faculty Council minutes, 24 Jan

In attendance:

BS – Ben Smith (chair)
DC – Dan Contreras (taking minutes)
SB – Stephanie Bogart
AY- Alex York
TB- Tom Bianchi
MG- Molly Gardner
AW- Alexander Wong
SH- Selman Hershfield
LS- Lea Schwartz
DR – Dave Richardson
RB – Rori Bloom
JP – John Palmer
CD – Christine Davis
NH – Nancy Hunt

- FC minutes from 10 Dec approved

- BS raises issue of need to establish a procedure for nominating a faculty member to serve as “Col Consultant” for the University.
- DR is open to whichever procedure suits FC
- MG and SH suggest that FC come up with some names and pass them to DR
- DR will evaluate the candidates based on availability (presuming that by virtue of nomination they are qualified); asks that FC ensure willingness to serve
- TB moves to approve; process approved

- BS: committee of FC chairs met and discussed upcoming UF presidential search
 - There may be some delay about process resulting from bill under consideration in legislature to exempt search from sunshine laws
 - FC chairs appointed to ad hoc committee to advise BoT and FS about search

- BS: need to schedule meeting to plan T&P workshop
 - SB: subcommittee planning to meet this week
- BS: need to plan CD/AD survey
 - DC: subcommittee working on this; meeting with Mark Girson from BEBR next week to plan timelines
 - Only content updates might be a question about academic freedom and/or Covid

- BS asks DR about subcommittee meeting with Chris McCarty to discuss graduate funding

- DR suggests that there will be challenges in the next few years
- Backstop funding currently keeping us afloat – just – but not clear what will happen after that expires
- BS will orchestrate subcommittee meeting with CM
- TB asks what is happening to that backstop funding
 - DR: Two issues:
 - GSFs had been in place from Graduate School for many years; due to accounting error in Graduate School they had been releasing more funding in that program than they could support. Result is – beginning last year – no funds to support new students. Provost provided backstop funding last year – producing GSF-lite in CLAS – in order that funding not vanish entirely. Ultimately these GSF will be restored but at ~20% less than before.
 - DLTA fees were determined to be in violation of the spirit of the law for funding sources. CLAS commitment to UF Online had meant \$2.5-3 million/year in DLTA fees; to prevent imminent catastrophe, Provost provided 3 years of backstop funding but that will expire.
 - TB asks whether DLTA fees are being cut across state system, or just at UF. UF views that use as a compliance risk; may not be true at other institutions.
 - CD asks about planning for course demand (where will the TAs come from?).
 - DR: This is the key question. From the Administration perspective there was an expectation that hiring additional faculty would help to address this problem. However, e.g., Quest program relies on TAs, but those are not funded/supported.
 - DC: Is UF Online meant to keep expanding? How so, w/o DLTA funds?
 - DR: UF Online has invested, but is not self-sustaining or self-supporting. This is where DLTA issue came up. Combination of teaching residential courses online with UF Online courses made it possible to spend DLTA funds on TAs for those classes. But not economically sustainable in its own right.
- BS: hope is that by end of the spring semester there will be a joint proposal by dean and faculty to address problem. Will email those who have agreed to serve on subcommittee to make plans.
- SH: what about rumors of new budget model?
 - DR: Rumors are true; in “consultancy” phase. University financials are currently being evaluated. Questions are 1) what are “all funds”? and 2) how should those funds be allocated? Deans’ view is that current president should not make any decisions about budget model, but should leave that for his successor.
- SB: FS approved resolution for title change for non-tenure track faculty (to “Assistant Instructional Professor”, etc). Dave Bloom proposed that Provost should contact

colleges to see if they wanted to implement this change; Provost moved issue to HR; convoluted because it implicated CBA and bargaining.

- DR reports that Provost has not provided any instructions to CLAS. Asks how implementation of “working titles” would function across College if the process is optional for the College (i.e., should it be handed down from CLAS, or be optional for faculty?); requests guidance from FC about this.
- SH raises question of whether this can be handled at departmental level rather than across CLAS. DR suggests that if departments have these discussions and take positions, that will provide some forward progress.
- SB points out that there was a survey of all faculty, so there is a sense of support; but that may not obviate need for departmental discussions.
- CD asks whether, since these are working titles, this could be handled on an individual basis. DR points out that there will be a need for a centralized register of who uses which working title. This would be manageable, but requires a process (of surveying NTT faculty, collecting responses, providing deadlines, etc).
- BS asks SB to share text of FS resolution in order to facilitate consideration of this in FC.
- TB asks for clarification about exactly what a working title is? Could be different in different departments/schools? DR/SB clarify that the question is about adopting the new specific titles or not; not about various possibilities.

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