Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) Meeting – September 20, 2017

Minutes:

Meeting began at 2:22 p.m. in Duckering Building, Room 531

Present:

- Committee Members: Andy Anger, Ataur Chowdhury, Jeff May, Sine Anahita, Josh Greenberg, Jak Maier, Debu Misra, Gordon Williams

Absent:

- Tony Bouffard, Mo Hogan

Initial Comments:

Andy welcomed us and led introduction of committee members.

Election of New Chair:

Group voted on the names willing to serve. It was decided that we will have co-chairs. After the votes were tallied, the co-chairs will be Jak Maier and Andy Anger

Minute Takers this year:

Sine and Jeff volunteered to take turns keeping the Minutes.

Setting FAC Meeting Times:

After the doodle poll, it works best for the most to meet second Wednesdays of the month from 1 – 2 p.m.

Sine moves to approve. Jeff B. seconds. Agenda approved (with additional new business items).

Old Business:

1. Blue Book Revision

- Chris Fallen wants to see this completed this year. At ADCOM it was discussed and the consensus was to form a new Blue Book Committee with members of Curriculum Affairs Committee and Faculty Affairs Committee
- Debu and Sine volunteered to be on this Committee

2. Update on Faculty Overload Benefit Rate

When faculty teaches an overload it costs UA more because they pay at the full benefit rate. When staff or adjunct teach overloads it only costs 11% of the benefit rate.

- Andy spent time explaining the resistance from Statewide they encountered last year. Statewide claims that it would be too difficult to create another job code for faculty overloads that would include an appropriate benefit rate. Statewide maintains that they will continue to charge the full benefit rate for faculty overloads even though benefits, such as healthcare, do not accrue with overloads since those benefits are paid for by the benefit rate charged on the faculty's primary position.
- Andy will continue to work with Chris Fallen on this

New Business:

What Items do we want to take up this Semester?

1. Review of Faculty 180

- Is Faculty 180 working and do we want to continue using it? Which committee should take this issue on? ADCOM is suggesting an ad hoc committee be assigned and dedicated to this effort and wants FAC and the IT Committee to participate.
- Ataur volunteered to work on this issue as a committee member

2. Shared Governance

- Jak explained that she feels there needs to be work on making this truly an institution that uses Shared Governance instead of just considering faculty opinion when it gels with the opinion of the administration.
- We will discuss what actions we can reasonably take and tackle at the next meeting.

3. Grade Appeal Process

- Faculty Senate policy governs the grade appeals process;
- There is currently an ad hoc committee from which faculty are selected to serve on grade appeals committee
- Sine very interested in this one
- This is somewhat time sensitive
- Board of Regents regulations and UA policy are in place, but there is concern that current Faculty Senate policy and practice may not be in alignment
- Provost asked for clarification in policy language
  - o We decided that Sine will email an explanation of the problem, what she sees as the solution to fix any potential ambiguity, and we can all review this before the next ADCOM meeting via email and google docs.

4. Relations between Administration/Faculty/Departments

- One example of a breakdown in communication and confusion of roles is Vice Provost Fitts efforts to create a new student success class instead of using the existing class. Also, VP Fitts apparent unwillingness to work with faculty to create the coursework of interest to the administration.

5. Program Review Process

- Gordon brought up the Program Review process as broken (especially Special Program Review). Some programs are always under review. There are no controls on this process. The process has no control by faculty so the administration is using this process without any real explanation or control.
- Josh brought up that there is no clear set process. It is all ad hoc and very subjective. We are missing a clear process. Issues of communication, transparency, and need to come up with a clear process.

6. Ownership Rights of Course Materials

- Clarification of Ownership rights for faculty and administration would be valuable
- Jeff May volunteered to work on this – Sine also interested in helping

Next meeting time: October 11th at 1:00 p.m., location to announced.