

Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) Meeting – December 7, 2016

Minutes:

Meeting began at 2:15 p.m. in the Kayak Room

Present:

- Committee Members: Andy Anger, Debu Misra, Jeff May, Val Gifford, Sine Anahita, , Josh Greenberg
- Guest Visit from Laura McCollough from Office of Dean of Students

Approval of Meeting Agenda:

Sine moves to approve agenda with the changes of excluding any discussion of the adjunct faculty issues and the mandatory reporting of Title IX violations (they are moot right now because of ongoing Adjunct CBA Negotiations and because UAF in process of hiring a new Title IX person and that may well bring changes). Val seconded it with the amendment. No opposed.

Old Business:

1. Report on the Revisions to the Program Review Process

Sine is pleased with the compromise. It does not allow the Faculty Senate to vote as she originally wanted, but it does allow the program faculty to be involved in the review process much earlier and Faculty Senate an opportunity to get a report of a decision and to respond.

The idea of a special review process for programs slated for major changes was strongly opposed by CAC and ADCOM, so there are no plans to create any “special” review criteria.

2. Update on Faculty Overload Benefit Rate

Not much to review right now. Next meeting on it is January 12, 2017. Andy will let us know of any updates as new information about these discussions and negotiations continue.

3. Update on Blue Book Revision

Val said there are no new updates to report.

New Business:

1. The Updated Student Misconduct Policy – presentation by Laura McCollough

Laura has been working with Ilene on the Curriculum Committee. The goal is to get this draft to all the correct committees to move it forward and create a workable policy. This work started last year with work by Debu Misra.

Dean's office was contacted last year by instructors asking for clarification on the policy and voicing concerns that it be more punitive to gross violations.

Laura has been researching what types of sanctions are appropriate in the academic setting. Laura is interested in developing a clear process that will inform both faculty and students.

Laura would like us to look at the policy and make suggested changes so she can take a revised draft back to the Curriculum Committee.

Debu mentioned and suggested that any student affairs issues should also go before SADA and GAC Committees because it impacts both students and faculty.

Laura interested in a policy that provides more guidance and consistency and also allows for better tracking of problematic behavior so that if there are patterns of behavior by the same students.

Sine voiced a concern that she does not want to see the burden fall upon the faculty to make the choice of sanction. She thinks once a teacher reports it the administration should take care of it.

Josh voiced an opposing view that he prefers a policy that allows some of the discretion about what to do about it with the individual faculty.

Laura expressed a collaborative view where the administration works with the faculty involved to uncover what happened and how best to respond. Laura said that some faculty are fearful of being sued by aggrieved students.

Debu suggests that the policy call for collaboration from the Dean of Students with the Dean of the College. Once the violation is established then the faculty and both Deans are involved in the process. The faculty member is helped to be insulated from legal troubles.

Jeff voiced concern about making the policy too specific and creating a system that creates progressive discipline standards that then must be followed regardless of how egregious the situation.

Laura said she understands that concern and wants to create a workable document that informs faculty, ensures they understand the process generally and don't go "rogue", but also doesn't get too specific and cumbersome.

Discussion moved to conflicts about grade concerns. There was discussion about what the status of grade appeals at the University. There Grade Appeal Policy is still in place but has recently been modified. The process is being reviewed again currently by the SADA Committee and the goal is to align it with Board of Regents policy.

Back to broader issue of misconduct - Major sanctions are recommended by the Dean of Students Office, but the ultimate decision is made by the Chancellor.

- Sine and others expressed a need to change this. The Chancellor doesn't need to be involved in this. There are other more important duties for the Chancellor to be dealing with.

- Amber Cagwin is with the Dean of Students Office and has just been assigned to deal with student discipline.

Laura would like to set a goal of having this policy revamped and finalized by Summer 2017.

Laura would like use to review the “University of Alaska Sanction Matrix” as a document to share with the public and students so they are informed of the ramification of academic misconduct.

Our Committee agreed to review Laura’s draft paperwork and come to the next FAC meeting prepared to talk about this as a group and make suggestions, if any.

Next meeting time: February 8, 2016 at 2:15 p.m. (Tentative) – Sine will send out a Doodle Poll to check if this time still works for everyone’s spring schedule.

Sine would like to have meetings in a room with better video conferencing capabilities.