

## **Faculty Affairs Committee Minutes of Meeting on February 19, 2009**

Committee Members Present: Marion Bret-Harte, Cathy Cahill, Anne Christie (via phone), Maureen Hogan (via phone), and Jennifer Reynolds.

Optional Retirement Program – Many of the faculty are unclear as to the status of the ORP issue. They feel the Union is not talking to their constituents or responding to constituent questions. Therefore, we agreed that we would like to have someone from the Union, preferably with a handout on the status of their ORP efforts and/or a FAQ sheet, at the next Faculty Senate meeting to answer questions about the Union mailing about joining the claim, deadlines for joining, implications of joining, do we have to do it to get the benefits, etc.

Faculty Senate Reapportionment – Faculty members may only vote in one unit. People who hold equal appointments between two units must choose where to vote. One question is: can we vote in one unit but run in another? 617 people are eligible to vote, including term instructors (they hold ‘special rank’ as defined in the bylaws) but not including post docs. Elections are run by unit so we would like the units to encourage term instructors and other people holding ‘special rank’ to vote in the elections. We need to develop improved methods for obtaining this data; it was difficult. We also wish to acknowledge the time and effort the Provost’s staff put into compiling these numbers. Thank you!

Research Advisory Committee – Marion Bret-Harte is going to communicate with the head of the faculty research committee at UAA and work on developing a reasonable framework/list of responsibilities for the committee.

Legislative Affairs – The major discussion point was how to structure a pipeline to send representative faculty with interesting results and highlight our successes to the Legislature. SFOS has a list of their best achievements prepared for their advisory committee which could be used as a model for a way to communicate UAF successes to Juneau. We also need to develop a process for recommending and training the faculty going to Juneau for dealing with Legislators. We need to talk to the Chancellor’s office about their processes for communicating faculty efforts to the Legislature so we can figure out how to merge/streamline these processes (we don’t need to recreate the wheel).

Electronic Faculty Activity Reports (EFARS) – No progress has been made recently due to a challenge with testing the UAA-developed software. We need to communicate directly with the developer of the software to get it working. We also need to find out how the beta-testing is going at UAA. If you have good UAA contacts, please ask them what they think about their EFARS software and let us know what they think.

Bookstore – We don’t need to alert the Chancellor to this issue. He already knows. However, we would like to know what the Bookstore’s mission is. Whatever the mission is, please make sure that the system serves that mission and that students can use that

function. For example, if the Bookstore is supposed to allow students to buy books on their Financial Aid, then that function should work (according to the students it did not work this time).

Adjunct, Term or Contingent Faculty – We following a process we generated last semester to collect the data needed to determine how wide-spread the use of these faculty is at UAF. We are going to examine the current year and past year to determine the number and type (special topics, core courses, etc.) of classes being taught by these faculty. As part of the collection, we would like to collect anecdotal evidence about the people being hired on this basis (are they retired and looking for a little extra money, etc.) in addition to the actual numbers.