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Faculty Senate Meeting

Minutes

December 2, 2013

3:30 PM

Presiding: Michael Carter

Attendees: Lisa Abdallah, Laura Barefield, Dina Bozicas, Maria Brunette, Eve Buzawa, Michael Carter, Nicole Champagne, Abigail Chandler, Shehong Chen, Timothy Cook, Alan Doerr, Urmitapa Dutta (for Stephanie Block), James Egan, Heidi Fantasia, Susan Faraji, Cynthia Ferrara, William Fisher, Stuart Freedman, Clayton French, Steven Freund, Michael Geiger, Robert Giles, Jennifer Gonzalez-Zugasti, Nancy Goodyear, Michael Graves, Christopher Hansen, Javier Horta, Ann Marie Hurley, Sue Kim, Daniel Klain, Ainat Koren, Jason Lawrence, Haim Levkowitz, Erika Lewis, Karen Lin, Benyuan Liu, David Lustick, Mufeed Mahd, Margaret Manion, Dalila Megherbi, Michael Millner, Stephen Mishol, Keith Mitchell, Arthur Mittler, Donna Mullin, Charles Ormsby, Robert Parkin, April Pattavina, James Propp, JianHua Qian, Muhammad Quayes, Marina Ruths, Charlotte Ryan, Carole Salmon, Michelle Scribner-MacLean, Richard Serna, James Sherwood, Shellie Simons, Jana Sladkova, Sang Hyun Suh, Stacy Szczesiul, Berk Talay, Stefanie Tate, Joel Therrien, Walter Toomey, Celeste Tremblay, James Veatch, Naomi Wernick, Jennifer Wilber, Thomas Wilson, YiNing Wu, Patrick Young, TzuYang Yu, Juheng Zhang (for Jialun Qin)

Recording: Martha Burns

The meeting convened at 3:37 PM.

- Minutes of November 4, 2013 Faculty Senate Meeting

Ann Marie Hurley made a motion to approve the November 4, 2013 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes. It was seconded by Erika Lewis and passed unanimously.

Graduate Policy and Affairs Committee (GPAC), (Professor Sherwood)

- Proposal for a Terrorism Studies Option in the PhD in Criminology and Criminal Justice

Eve Buzawa provided an overview of the proposal. Letters of support were presented. A motion was made to accept the proposal. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

- Proposal for Curriculum Change to the MS in Nursing Program

The proposed change would allow students to choose the Master's Project, Master's Thesis or a graduate level course elective approved by their advisor. Ann Marie Hurley made a motion to accept the change. It was seconded by Alan Doerr and passed unanimously.

Undergraduate Policy Committee (UPC), (Professor Mittler)

- Proposal for an Education Concentration in the Bachelor of Liberal Arts (BLA) Degree

An education concentration is proposed for the Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree which, for those seeking to become elementary teachers, would provide a fast track into the M.Ed. in Elementary Education. A motion was made to accept the proposal. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

- Proposal for Curriculum Changes to the Nutrition Minor

The proposal covers:

- replacing requirement of 4 credits for 32.252/35.254 Physiological Chemistry II/Lab with 3 credits for 35.336 Life Cycle Nutrition
- Increasing the number of elective nutritional-related credits at the 300 or high level from 6 to 9 credits
- Result is to change the minor requirement from 21 to 23 credits.

Ann Marie Hurley made a motion to accept the proposal. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

- Proposal to revise the graduation requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

A minimum grade of C- in 12 designated courses will be required in order to satisfy subsequent course pre-requisite requirements. A motion was made to accept the proposal. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

- Proposal to revise the curriculum requirements in the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA)

The proposal covers:

- adding 41.262 as a requirement
- replacing one Political Science elective and one Sociology elective with 2 social science electives
- moving 3 non-Manning School of Business (MSB) electives to concentration MSB/NON-MSB electives
- reduce the total credits for Gen. Ed. and non-MSB electives from 62 to 53.

A motion was made to accept the proposal. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

Announcement

Vice Provost Mandell announced that two open meetings to discuss the new General Education Model will be held on December 9th from 4:00-5:00 in the Trustees Room in Cumnock Hall and on December 10th from 3:00-4:30 in Dugan Hall.

Other Business

- Academic Calendar, (3 years: 2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017)
Professor Carter announced that the Registrar has worked diligently to craft an academic calendar which mirrors the calendar previously approved. Kerry Donohoe stated that each semester will be 67 days. A number of faculty members are concerned the calendar's effects on students' religious commitments. As discussion persisted Ann Marie Hurley moved to call the question. The motion to call the question was seconded and passed. Then the motion to approve the proposed calendar for the next three academic years was approved by a 45 -15 vote. The academic calendar for the next three years is now posted on the registrar's website.

Report from the Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees

Professor Buzawa provided a report. The impact of the federal budget situation on university R & D is a critical issue. The University experienced its first reduction in R & D spending in recent history with cuts across the campuses in the 3-4% range for FY 2013.

Given uncertainty over the budget impasse in Washington, it is unclear how this will change in the future. Several additional developments

- Reduction in faculty morale
- Slowdown in rate of progress of existing R & D programs
- Serious damage to career prospects for new young faculty seeking their first major R & D grant
- Reduction in number of doctoral students pursuing academic research careers
- Concerns that R & D funding could worsen before it gets better
- Worry that US universities will fall behind those of China and elsewhere

Campuses exploring increased R & D opportunities with industry (e.g. through UMass Innovation Institute and proposed new hires in business development and industry relations) and potential partnerships with other R & D institutions (federal labs such as Natick Labs, universities in the Mass Green High Performance Computing Center.

President Caret and Chancellors working with Massachusetts Congressional delegation and through national organizations ACE, Association of Public Land Grant Universities APLU) and American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

Closing Comments

Professor Carter closed the meeting discussing financial issues. The President's office is lobbying the governor and Massachusetts' house and senate leadership to increase state funding by enough to cover 50% of core educational costs in the university system, in exchange for a freeze on student fees (except the Division 1 athletic fee and dormitory and meal plan fees). Response on Beacon Hill to this 50-50 initiative appears favorable. System level guidelines for faculty wage increases in the

upcoming round of collective bargaining have not yet been announced. Any state support of collective bargaining wage and benefit increases would have to be part of a supplemental appropriation on top of the 50-50 funding deal.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.