

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
Senate Educational Policies Committee
February 15, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Present: Amy E. Aggelou, Michael Beach, David Beck, Mario C. Browne, Leslie Eibl, Bonnie Falcione, Micah Gross, Zsuzsa Horvath, A. Murat Kaynar, and Douglas Landsittel

Excused: M. Kathleen Kelly, Juan Manfredi, Helen Petracchi, Alberta Sbragia, Susan Skledar, and Aliyah Weinstein

Not Present: Lori A. Molinaro, Naomi Stoll, and Frank Wilson

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Zsuzsa Horvath (Chair) at ~3pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the January 2016 meeting were approved as written.

Special Topics

- **Annual Update, Center for Instructional Development and Distance Education (CIDDE)**
 - Cynthia Golden, Director of CIDDE provided the annual update to the committee. This included an extensive yet practical overview of existing and new resources offered by CIDDE. Questions posed by the committee were addressed by Ms. Golden. Two additional items pertaining to timeline for archiving functionality in Courseweb and reliability of available originality checking software will be provided as follow-up items for the committee. Michael Arenth, Director of Classroom and Media Services at CIDDE accompanied Ms. Golden and provided a thorough overview and a demonstration of a new virtual reality tool that can be used in the classroom.

- **Possible Collaboration between Educational Policies and Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Discrimination Advocacy Committee (EIADAC)**
 - Members of the EIADAC, including Claude Mauk (co-chair, EIADAC), Sudhanshu Shekhar, Genevieve Cook and Jon Smart provided an overview of their working group's discussions pertaining to possible recommendations to the Faculty Assembly about academic integrity training and awareness initiatives for students. The committee members discussed ways in which future collaborations, or future leadership by the committee could proceed. The committee and the guests from EIADAC were in agreement for the committee to further determine the committee's involvement and provide follow-up to the EIADAC co-chair.

New Business

- **Pitt News**
 - The committee discussed the recent attendance of the *Pitt News* and the suggestions sought out by Chair Horvath from the Senate President. Chair Horvath also provided a review of the bylaws that indicate "...all meetings are normally open to members of the University community, although Standing Committees may meet in executive session when necessary and appropriate for dealing with confidential matters." The committee discussed options to facilitate attendance of the *Pitt News* at committee meetings. These included the ability to determine agenda items in advance, including guest presenters, where executive session would be necessary and appropriate for dealing with confidential matters so that these might be scheduled on the agenda. The committee also discussed requesting of the *Pitt News* their attendance in advance of committee meetings to further facilitate reporting at committee meetings.
- **Pro-tem member**
 - Chair Horvath apprised the committee that two faculty members have expressed interest in joining the committee as Pro Tem Members, they are: Arash Mahboobin from Engineering who is interested in standing for election to the committee, and Boryana Dobрева, Director of Academic Programs in the College of General Studies. The committee members agreed that these faculty members should be welcomed to join as Pro-tem members.

Old Business

- **Committee Leadership**
 - Chair Horvath apprised the committee that member Doug Landsittel has expressed interest and willingness to serve as interim Co-Chair for the remainder of the term in order to assist the committee in transition as Chair Horvath is completing her third year on the committee and will not be running for a second term this spring. Committee members thanked Dr. Landsittel for his willingness to serve the committee in this additional capacity.

Vice-Provost updates

Undergraduate (submitted by Vice Provost Juan Manfredi):

- Four candidates were interviewed for the position of Vice Provost and Dean of Students on Feb 2, 3, 4 and 5. Thank you to the members of this committee who provided valuable input. The Search Committee has passed its final recommendation to Provost Beeson.
- The Fourth Assessment Conference was held on January 28th. Proceedings and a video of the keynote by Dr. Joan Hawthorne will be available at the Assessment Community in the portal.
- The Advance Educational Excellence (AEE) submitted a final draft to Vice Provost DeJong for consideration by the Chancellor's Sr. staff. Thank you to the members of this committee for the thoughtful and valuable contributions.
- The Provost has charged a working group, chaired by Larry Feick, to study the implementation of hybrid programs that would save students time and money to get two degrees. This was one of the recommendations of the AEE working group.

Graduate (submitted by Vice Provost Alberta Sbragia):

- Visits are being arranged for the University Library Systems (ULS) finalists. The schedule for the candidates' presentations will be distributed by Jennifer Walker who is arranging the visits.

Faculty Assembly update

- **Sexual Harassment Guidelines Proposal**

Chair Horvath reported in follow-up that a question posed by our committee regarding training for students in the sexual harassment guidelines proposals was addressed at Faculty Assembly. She indicated that it was addressed that there will be training for students however it was explained that the proposal was intended to focus on training for faculty. Other questions posed at the Faculty Assembly addressed effectiveness and evidence of benefit for the proposed training modules.

Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence (ACIE) update

- Liaison Falcione indicated that the council last met on January 22nd as reported at the last committee meeting and will meet again on March 15th to make recommendations to the Provost on the ACIE Innovation in Education awards proposals. The final count of proposals was not known at the last ACIE meeting because the meeting preceded the deadline.

Next meeting is March 21, 2016 3pm in CL 826

Adjournment: at ~4:30pm.