UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
Senate Educational Policies Committee
May 18, 2015
Meeting Minutes

Present: Amy E. Aggelou, Leslie Eibel, Bonnie Falcione, Zsuzsa Horvath, Douglas Landsittel A. Murat Kaynar, M. Kathleen Kelly Juan Manfredi, Alberta Sbragia, and Aliyah Weinstein.

Excused: David Beck, Mary Lou Leibold, Helen Petracchi, Laurel Bridges Roberts, Susan Skledar and Cynthia Tananis.

Not Present: Shelly Renee Brown, Lori A. Molinaro, Robert Sica, and Michael Spring.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Zsuzsa Horvath (Chair) at ~4pm.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the April 20th meeting were approved as written.

New Business
- New members for 2015-2016 were announced and those able to attend were introduced:
  - Michael Beach, School of Nursing (introduced)
  - Leslie Eibl, University Library System
  - Douglas Landsittel, School of Medicine (introduced)
- Student representative Aliyah Weinstein will be returning next year.
- Nominations from the floor for officers were requested and made by Amy Aggelou, M. Kathleen Kelly, and new members Douglas Landsittel and Leslie Eibel. Zsuzsa Horvath and Bonnie Falcione were nominated and re-elected as Chair and Co-Chair, respectively.

Old Business
- Recommendations for EPC from the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on NTS Faculty Issues:
  - An update pertaining to "Recommendation 1: Review the process for teaching evaluation of full time non-tenure stream (NTS) faculty to ensure they are treated fairly," was provided by Chair Horvath including considerations for obtaining input from the Working Group on Issues Related to Student Opinions of Teaching Online Surveys that is addressing related recommendations, along with input from new committee members before finalizing a proposal for a resolution to Faculty Assembly. Discussion amongst committee members indicated agreement. This topic will be included in work for the committee in 2015-2016.

  - An update pertaining to "Recommendation 2: Assurance that full-time non-tenure stream (NTS) faculty with teaching duties have input into decisions about curriculum content and curriculum changes in the unit," was provided by Chair Horvath including considerations for further understanding the evaluating process for full-time visiting/temporary faculty before proceeding with a resolution proposal for the Faculty Assembly. Discussion amongst committee members indicated agreement. Questions of interest included learning more about units that expressly do not apply this process equally, expectations for visiting/temporary full-time NTS faculty for equivalent

opportunities for contributions for input, duration of visiting/temporary full-time NTS faculty as indicator of expected opportunities for contributions, and expectations for faculty with primary research commitments with limited or no teaching responsibilities. This topic will be included in work for the committee in 2015-2016.

- Working Group Updates
  - Working Group on Issues Related to Student Opinions of Teaching Online Surveys
    - Chair Horvath updated the committee on the anticipated upcoming schedule for working group meetings.

  - Working Group on Digital Ethics
    - Chair Falcione indicated that the working group would be next meeting in June.

Vice-Provost updates
- **Undergraduate**
  Vice Provost Manfredi presented the report:
  - A detailed update on preparation of the Periodic Review Report (PRR) which is due in June 2017 was provided to the committee. Other updates provided included the Gallup Survey of Alumni of which results are expected in June; the motion presented to the Council of Deans at the May 6th meeting; and a description of the incoming class from data on paid deposits as of the May 1st deadline.
- **Graduate**
  Vice Provost Sbragia presented the report:
  - A detailed update on the announced University-wide "Year of the Humanities" and related events was provided to the committee. This included the Provost's Office call for proposals from faculty, staff, and students to address "Being Human" as the theme in the University with the goal of bringing together multiple schools or units (http://www.humcenter.pitt.edu/year-humanities-call-proposals). Other planned events include a speaker series sponsored by the Honors College showcasing 5 renowned panelists, and a weekly Colloquium series at the Humanities Center in the Cathedral of Learning. Also, formation of a subcommittee has taken place and they have already met once; contributors are included from across the university and will address what professional schools expect of the humanities. More information about the "Year of the Humanities"can be found at http://www.humanities.pitt.edu/home.

Faculty Assembly updates
- The committee was provided a brief update on the following topics and referred to the University Times for further details.
- http://www.utimes.pitt.edu/?p=35982
- http://www.utimes.pitt.edu/?p=36007
- Travel policy
- Senate council approval of changes to the senate committees recommended by FA
- Budget Policies report
- Equity Inclusion and Anti-Discriminatory Committee report
- Senate Governmental and Relations Committee report
- Panther Express/Purchasing
- Computer science faculty member Alexandros Labrinidis invited faculty members who are interested in being kept informed about a potential new campus entity for computing and

information science and engineering to sign up for a mailing list he has created. Faculty can register at http://signup.cise-faculty.org.

Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence (ACIE) update
- Liaison Falcione reported that the council met on May 6th. Updates had been provided then on actions in response to the recommendations made by the Council subcommittees (Online Student Opinions of Teaching Surveys and Diversity). This included a summary of the Destination Diversity conversation series and the Provost's Diversity Institute for Faculty Development programming. The Innovation in Education Awards were also reported on; this included the number of proposals received and the review process. Input was requested to improve the program including mechanisms to make project outcomes more visible to the university community. The liaison requested to share details about all proposals received. The council requested information for how this would be used by EPC; provided with this explanation the Council agreed to address availability of means for maintaining confidentiality to meet this request. This was the last meeting of the academic year for the council. EPC members provided input and suggestions for disseminating project outcomes; the liaison will report back to the council with these suggestions.

SEPC future planning
The committee will continue to meet monthly on Monday afternoons in 2015-2016. Committee members will be contacted at the start of the fall term with time and location of the first meeting planned for September.

Adjournment @ ~5:30pm