

Faculty Assembly Meeting Minutes
 University Club Ballroom A
 June 7, 2011

Topic/Discussion	Action
<u>Call to Order.</u> President Michael R. Pinsky called the meeting to order at 3:04pm.	The meeting commenced.
<u>Approval of the Minutes of the May 3, 2011 Faculty Assembly Meeting.</u> President Pinsky asked for approval of the minutes of the May 3, 2011 Faculty Assembly Meeting.	The minutes were approved as written.
<u>Introduction of Items of New Business.</u> President Pinsky asked if there were any new items of business to be brought forward. Professor Lin stated that he would like to discuss teaching evaluations.	Teaching evaluation will be discussed at the end.
<p><u>Report of the President.</u> President Pinsky gave the following report:</p> <p>May 12th at St. Nicholas church, there was the organizational meeting of the 2025 Community Action Forum. This is a system that is hoping to link all of the areas of Oakland together with the University of Pittsburgh and UPMC. It was reported in Democracy Today as one of the 5 most active public based community forums in the U.S. It has to do with issues of communication, more green space, parking, and transportation from one area of Oakland to another.</p> <p>The second item of business was to have Rush Miller, Director of ULS, discuss the issue of an open access proposal, which is a proposal where we are going to request all subsequent peer reviewed publications that we have, be available through the University of Pittsburgh in one form or another to the world. Provost Beeson requested that I meet with her and Rush Miller and discuss what specific issues are present. We will create a second committee who will, over the summer, discuss this in greater detail. I fully expect that at our first meeting in September, we will discuss this issue.</p>	
<p><u>Reports by and Announcements of Special and Standing Committees of the Senate.</u></p> <p><u>By-Laws and Procedures Committee, Nick Bircher</u></p> <p>The committee met twice this year with the central issue to consider was the search committee guidelines for senior academic administrators. Once the Provost search was done, we met and considered potential revisions to these guidelines. Among the central issues in this document is exactly which positions do the guidelines cover for “Senior Academic Administrators” and should the petition</p>	

process, whereby faculty can actually petition to be elected to a search committee be kept? The general consensus was that it ought to be retained. Selection versus election for the staff and student representatives was explored. As of now, the language reflects that there should be some kind of election, but it is not clear if that election is by the SGB, by itself, or a vote from all students. Finally, which centers qualify as university-wide was discussed. Over the summer, Vice-Chancellor Juhl is going to finalize the set of proposed revisions and then circulate that to the students and staff.

Remarks

President Pinsky remarked that there was a time in the past that we did not have such a collegial relationship with the administration and this policy reflected that nature.

Faculty Assembly member Withiam asked how this would apply to the branch campuses and selecting administrators there.

Bircher responded that anyone below the rank of president at branch campuses would not be covered under this policy.

Faculty Associates Program (FAP), Jamis O'Brien

The Faculty Associates Program provides structured interaction with a residential floor of first year students to make faculty appear more approachable. These faculty partner with a resident assistant (RA). The RAs are trained to create these events and programs. Some examples might include a coffee shop or utilizing the faculty member's hobbies. The Faculty Associates main role is to communicate with the RA and to be available for these events. There is some funding for these events and programs for the FAs and RAs to use. This program is important because it helps with student satisfaction and retention; it improves students' communication skills, and personalizes the academic experience and provides mentoring to first year students. If you would like to volunteer to be a part of this program or know someone who might, please contact Jamis O'Brien at jjobrien@pitt.edu.

Remarks:

President Pinsky asked if there was anything on the university website for this program. He also noted that this may be a good bullet point to put on the faculty outreach program.

A faculty member asked how long the program has been in place. She would also like to hear from faculty that have participated in this

program in the past.

O'Brien responded that it has been in place for 5 years and that there have been peaks and valleys and right now we are at the highest level of participation.

Susan Shaiman remarked that she has commented on this program in past meetings. She has been a FA for the past 4 years and that it really is not much work. She has had good experiences with the students and they have made a connection to the university.

Another faculty member asked if this is something for faculty who are already tenured or are we looking for new faculty?

O'Brien responded that if a faculty member is motivated to work with the students, then they are welcomed in the program.

A faculty member responded that people who were being proposed for promotion and tenure are looked at in three separate areas and that this kind of citizenship work is profoundly important.

President Pinsky mentioned that the name of the program does not indicate the role of the faculty.

New Business, OMET Evaluations, Professor Lin

Professor Lin asked if the OMET questionnaires for teaching effectiveness have been looked at by faculty. He asked if there should be a weighted evaluation score and if there's a committee to evaluate the questionnaire to make a judgment if something needs to be done.

Remarks:

- *Faculty concerns and responses were centered around the following points:*
- *We are not sure what degree of calibration has been done internally*
- *What is the reliability of the questionnaire?*
- *Who owns the results of the questionnaire?*
- *Instituting peer evaluation in our classrooms.*
- *Student ratings in varying difficulties of classes.*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Assessing learning effectiveness from the time a student enters a program to the time that they exit.</i> • <i>Would this issue be more productive at the school level?</i> • <i>Is the information used well?</i> • <i>Now that the evaluations are being distributed electronically, the qualitative and quantitative parts are bundled together.</i> <p><i>President Pinsky responded that this issue will be brought up to the Provost and to the Education Policies Committee.</i></p>	
<p><u>Announcements.</u> There will be a Senate Council Meeting on June 15th at 3:00pm in 2700 Posvar Hall.</p>	
<p><u>Adjournment.</u> Meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.</p>	<p>Meeting was adjourned.</p>

Members attending:

Arena, Baker, Balaban, Bartholomae, Beatty, Berry, Bircher, Buchanich, Chaiklin Costantino, Culley, Fonzi, Frank, Galloway, Harbert, Henker, Kear, Kearns, Lin, Lunsford, Molinaro, Munro, Pinsky, Rinaman, Savinov, Shaiman, Slimick, Smith, Smitherman, Sparto, Spring, Sukits, Terry, Weiss, Withiam

Members not attending:

Bauer, Becker, Boone, Brake Chase, Chisholm, Constantino, Daley, Deitrick, Elliott, Gallagher, Hall, Ho, Iwema, Karapinka, Kendrick, Majumdar, Mark, Miller, Neufeld, Pan, Ray, Rickman, Savoia, Smolinski, Steinberg, Towers, Trovato, Tuite, Wilson

*Excused attendance:

Bonneau, Burkoff, Caldwell, Close, Erlen, Fabian, Frieze, Gaddy, Greenberg, Hartman, Hravnak, Johnson, Kelly, Kovacs, Labrinidis, Muenzer, Rougeux, Seybert, Singh, Wendell, Zutter

Others attending:

Blair, Brendel, Fedele, Hart, O'Brien

*Notified Senate office