Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
03/21/2012


Barry started the meeting by stating that email discussion of differences between faculty make us look bad. If you have a problem with Barry or his procedures, see him in his office or use the discussion boards on our Florida Online page.

At the February 22 meeting, the Senate voted to meet today for the purpose of voting on the proposed changes to the tenure and promotion portfolio process, with no further discussion today. The entire meeting last month was devoted to discussion of the issues.

The Tenure and Promotion Portfolio Revision Committee has been in existence for two years now. Each iteration of the proposed revisions has been voted on and approved by the Senate.

Discussion prior to the vote:

Shana Deyo asked why this vote is not being done online? At this point, the reason is that the Senate voted at the February meeting to hold this vote in person. Barry pointed out that historically, online voting does not result in a larger turnout.

Ray Cornelius expressed concerns about faculty governance and the ability to discuss issues as a body without fear of retaliation.

Eduardo Divo, the current chair of the Tenure and Promotion Portfolio Revision Committee, spoke briefly. He stated that the revisions were discussed at the February meeting, and the committee took the suggestions that were made at that meeting and incorporated them into the current document. We now have a simplified document, written in the form of a procedure. He also pointed out that this committee has had open membership from the start and will continue to do so, and everyone is welcome to take part. Features of the revisions include more oversight; a mentoring component for new faculty, and proactively raising the standards for promotion before we are told by the state that we have to do so.

Rebecca Block read the document aloud.
The question was raised as to what happens if the proposal passes? An implementation committee would be formed to put the document into the proper format, plan for implementation, and present it to the president’s cabinet.

There was some discussion regarding parliamentary procedure and how our present bylaws support online and proxy voting.

A suggestion was made that we vote now, then write it into the next procedure that it has to be voted on by a majority of faculty, however that can be best achieved.

The vote was taken; votes were collected and counted by Andrea Reese and Jennifer Walsh. The new procedure for tenure and promotion was adopted in a close vote, 25 yea to 21 nay. The following statement was posted on the board clarifying what a yes vote meant: YES, I agree with the proposed Promotion and Tenure procedure and wish to see it implemented as it stands.

Now the procedure has to be drafted in the correct format. Any and all faculty are welcome to participate in this; if you are interested, email Barry by 3/28.

Discussion: apathy is a problem. This procedure has been discussed and worked on in the open for two years. All documents are posted to the Senate’s Florida Online page. Even if it is not possible to attend Senate meetings, it is possible to stay informed by reading the documentation of what takes place in the meetings.

One way to solve the problems of apathy, poor meeting attendance, and voting is via representative government with term limits. Emma Brombin and Dustin Weeks spoke in favor of this and others expressed support. Dustin requested a spot on the agenda for next month’s meeting to introduce a proposal that was made by a Senate committee in 2002 (it will likely need to be modified) to bring back representative governance.

Brief discussion was held re: voting for officers vs. Faculty Senate awards. Christel Saylor stated that it is better to keep the voting for those separate to avoid any confusion.

This year, under current bylaws, we will only be electing a vice-president. Mitch Pietras, the current VP, will be moving up to serve as president.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Owens
Faculty Senate Secretary