

Winter 11-17-2016

Minutes, November 17, 2016

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FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, November 17, 2016
10:30 – 11:35 AM
Denkmann 301

Present: Voting

Tim Bloser, Sally Burgmeier, Kurt Christoffel, Tristan Coughlin, Greg Domski, Laura Greene, Sonja Hurty, Jennifer Popple, Lisa Seidlitz, David Snowball

Present: Non-voting

Pareena Lawrence

Present: Guests

Mary Koski

1. Minutes of 10-27-16

The minutes of the October 27, 2016 Faculty Council meetings were approved as presented.

2. Announcements

At the 12-8-16 Faculty Meeting, Kathy will raise the question of faculty forum versus Friday Conversations for important faculty conversations. The motion about faculty line-up in processions has been placed on the agenda.

If there are other items that should be included on the Faculty Meeting agenda, Council members are to contact the Chair as soon as possible.

3. Faculty Council 2.0

The process for starting assessment of the three-year trial period Faculty Council model was discussed. The two parts of this process are: to assess how the Council has functioned in its first three years; and what authority or charge the Council should have in its new version.

Nominations and Rules agreed to oversee the external assessment of the structure and function of Faculty Council, which may be done via a survey.

Council decided to additionally consider constructing an internal assessment after receiving the results of the Nominations and Rules survey by using the survey results as a guide for how to proceed with constructing the internal assessment. After Nominations and Rules results have been received, suggestions were made for further action, such as: having conversations at department, division or rank meetings; by Council members reaching out via email to faculty colleagues in their rank; a follow-up survey with past and present Council members.

Nominations and Rules will be asked to act quickly on getting the survey out and back so that Council can proceed on and finalize the internal assessment by the end of winter term.

Faculty Council must also allow for conversation on what the Council should be charged with in its new version.

Would a body that has legislative authority better serve the College rather than a body that serves as a bridge between the academic administration and the faculty as a whole? Should expanding the mandate of the Council be considered? While Council members felt that getting answers to these questions is a faculty-wide decision, and that ultimately the faculty will vote for whatever Faculty Council is, some group will be tasked with writing the proposal. Council members felt, as did the Provost, that Nominations and Rules then not only assess Faculty Council performance, but in addition, find out from the faculty if Faculty Council's role should be expanded into, for instance, a legislative committee. Nominations and Rules should also provide as a courtesy to our newer faculty, the background on the former Faculty Senate model and how it became the current Faculty Council model.

At Nomination and Rules request, The Council Vice Chair will prepare a draft survey for Nominations and Rules to consider. Faculty Council members asked that the survey be shared with them prior to being sent to Nomination and Rules. Barring unforeseen circumstances, this will be completed within a week's time.

The Faculty Council committee composition was discussed as it relates to including ex-officio members. Currently there is no category of ex-officio on the committee's composition, yet the Provost and the President are expected to attend a specified number of times.

The Council discussed whether or not the chairs of EPC and Gen Ed and the Provost and President should be considered permanent ex-officio (voting or non-voting) members of the committee. There are times the Council needs to understand the specialized perspective of the curriculum when talking about broad issues and a representative from EPC or Gen Ed would be helpful. After no consensus was reached after debating this question, the Council decided to defer the composition question into the Nominations and Rules survey.

As a side note, comments were relayed through a Council member that when it comes to voting in new Faculty Council members, the ballot should include both tenure-track and non-tenure-track Assistant Professor rank candidates.

4. Addressing workload equity

The Provost's office has been in contact with several institutions about workload equity; the majority of them informed her they gave up on incorporating workload equity, calling it a nightmare. Valparaiso University, however, has a model working relatively well and they are willing to share their model with Augustana. Council members would like to look at it. Pareena will coordinate a conversation with Valparaiso and our Institutional Research team. If IR feels that they have a model worth emulating then Faculty Council would like a video conference with Valparaiso to discuss further.

In planning for Faculty Council to begin the conversation on workload equity, a Council member suggested sending out a survey to the faculty with a modest wish list and asking them to prioritize it. The Vice Chair will draft a survey on workload equity for Council to review.

5. Letter from Faculty to Students

The Provost asked Faculty Council to consider sending the students a letter of support, assuring them that they have the support of the faculty in this post-election reflection time, when so many of them are having a hard time. Council members felt a letter is not a good idea at this point. Council cannot speak for the faculty, and sending an additional letter is not necessarily useful.

Council members felt that incorporating into the curriculum how to teach our students to function with difference, teaching civil discourse, or infusing into gen ed courses ways of confronting conflict or dissent would be significantly more beneficial to our students. Faculty Council will reach out to the Gen Ed Committee, letting them know that Faculty Council and the Provost are hopeful that this will be part of the new general education discussion and ask them if the Gen Ed Committee will take the lead.

6. Announcements

The Chair of the Transition Coordinator Search Committee reported that they have received four applications and the committee will meet during Week 2 to discuss the applicants and decide who to interview. After interviews have concluded (hopefully during Week 4), the committee will make a recommendation to the Provost.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski
Office of Academic Affairs