

**Faculty Senate Minutes**  
Wednesday, July 9, 2014  
JCK 880, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

**Present**

**Senators:** Augustine Agwuele, Elizabeth Blunk, Michel Conroy (by conference call), Barbara Covington (by conference call), Debra Feakes, Ju Long, Shane Smith (standing in for Lynn Ledbetter), Shirley Ogletree, Emily Payne, Jovita Ross-Gordon, Vedaraman Sriraman, Susan Weill, Alex White

**Guests:** Paivi Rentz, Library Liaison, Van Wyatt, Vice President, Information Technology, Tim England, chair, Academic Computing Committee (by conference call)

Meeting called to order at 3 p.m. by Senate Vice Chair Sriraman

**Information and follow-up items**

- Council of Academic Deans (CAD) meeting reports follow-up questions/comments, 6/17 and 7/1  
Equity and Access Director Gilda Garcia addressed the deans on the rubric used by her office to grant a waiver to departments to fill a faculty position without a search. There was also CAD discussion related to promoting lecturers to tenure-track lines without searches. Guidelines are being provided by Equity and Access but each case will be evaluated separately.
- A number of recommended appointments to university committees were approved.
- The Piper Committee chair appointment recommendation of Eugene Curtin was approved.
- Faculty Senate appointed committee service 2013-14 acknowledgements were sent to chairs, and congratulatory letters to tenured and promoted faculty and Presidential Award recipients have been sent on behalf of the Faculty Senate.
- Three adjunct faculty representatives to the University Council have been requested by the Faculty Senate.

**Student computing needs process, Van Wyatt and Tim England**

To address concerns from the Liberal Arts Council about the annual application process for funding the 120 student labs across the university, VPIT Wyatt discussed the evolution of the process and supported the current procedure. Neither Wyatt nor England saw a routine upgrade schedule similar to the faculty computer refresh cycle as a more effective method of deciding how the student computing fee should be allocated. Currently, a short proposal is required and all applications correctly written and submitted have received funding, according to Wyatt. The ACC plans to develop an online proposal submission procedure in the future. One concern raised by senators was how the online application process would impact the current practice of proposals being reviewed by ACC representatives in each school prior to submission.

**Break**

**Faculty grievance changes**

- Definition of administrators as hearing officers  
There was agreement that a definition of *administrator* for appointment as a hearing officer in the recently revised faculty grievance policy should be clarified. Assistant and associate deans, who qualify as administrators according to PPS 8.08, have faculty appointments ranging from 25 to 75 percent. On a related note, the Faculty Senate would like to be considered as a consulting body to the President and Provost in the selection of hearing officers.
- Role of ombudsman  
A revised role for the university ombudsman as a *grievance facilitator* was proposed. In this capacity, the ombudsman could assist faculty members in the grievance process by explaining what materials are needed to make the case for their grievance.
- Memo to all faculty related to grievance changes and outside employment approval  
There was agreement that the Faculty Senate should send a memo to all faculty related to the revised grievance policy, particularly the reduced timeframe of 10 days to file a grievance (down from 90 days). There was also agreement that notification to faculty about the need for outside employment prior approval should come from the Provost.

- Update on summative review of chairs/directors  
Deans have provided their methods for reviews of chairs and directors. The compiled results will be distilled down to best practices and added to the PPS.  
On a related note, a committee chaired by Senator Agwuele is working to review the current questions asked in the faculty perceptions of chairs and administrators.

**New business**

There was no new business.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

~Minutes submitted by Susan Weill