

Faculty Council Meeting
September 7, 2021
10:00 – 11:30 am

Minutes

Present: L. Arellano, K. Button, J. Claudet, S. Cumby, J. Dennis, L. Greenlees, J. Hamrick,
R. Saldana, A. Zimmerman, L.J. Gould (Recorder)

Absent: P. Okungu

Guests: L. Brownell, G. Davis, H. Garcia, N. Knauth, D. Ladd, J. Lee, D. Palmer, S. Sneed,
B. Watson

Minutes

Approval of minutes was tabled until the September 21 meeting.

Introduction

Dr. Claudet welcomed the new members of the Faculty Council and guests present. He stated that he wished the Faculty Council to be as transparent as possible, and he would be opening the meetings to any faculty and staff who wished to attend.

Fall 2021 Leave Committee

Dr. Matteson requested that Faculty Council form a committee to review applications for leave. Last year, one person from each department was selected. The same process will be used. It was suggested that the department chairs be contacted for suggestions of tenured faculty who might be interested in leave. Faculty Council agreed to do this.

LT Representative Expansion

Dr. Claudet reported that the Faculty Council proposal to increase the number of voting members on the Leadership Team would be considered. The Dean is open to expanding the voting membership. At this time, there are only five tenured voting faculty members (one from each department and chair of Faculty Council). It was noted that the growing number of issues related to policy deliberated on by the LT would suggest the need for expanding the number of voting members. Faculty Council proposed increasing the number by four; they would be the chair of the Promotion and Tenure Committee and three of the other standing committees (DEI, Research, and Faculty, Staff and Student Human Resources Committee). The proposed members should be selected so that no single department is overrepresented. Dr. Claudet noted that the Staff Council has also proposed increasing the number of voting staff members on LT. At this time, there is no information on untenured representative changes.

It was also noted that there are still questions regarding who the faculty representatives represent – all faculty, their department, the college as a whole? As the LT is the shared governance body for the college, there should be training for all incoming members. The training should include:

- Purpose of being an LT Representative;
- The interest being represented;
- Understanding of the overall needs of the College and of the faculty being represented;
- From committee representatives, the insight from those on the committee;
- Clarity of role is of primary importance to alleviate tension placed on the representatives regarding how they are voting, who they represent, and how to handle competing interests.

The following suggestions will be offered at the meeting tomorrow:

- The Dean step away from direct oversight to insure it is working;
- Follow Robert's Rules and elect a chair;
- Generate the LT agenda so everyone knows what will be considered.

It is important that the Faculty Council be seen as a positive support for the LT and shared governance. It was noted that it is the responsibility of the LT to deliberate and vote on policy recommendations, although it is the Dean who makes the final decisions. It is also important that Faculty Council continue to promote the need for written information defining the LT.

Additional funding ideas regarding rural education partnering:

- Partnering with small schools to become leaders in rural education; perhaps creating a center to support rural education
- Brainstorming ideas to present to provost to fund faculty lines with provost funding;
- Separate lines, not presented by programs and not presented to LT; Dean will take to provost.

New Faculty Lines

Department chairs are asking for requests for new faculty lines to be considered. The Dean is supporting two to three new searches for next year. Some procedures will be the same, but the coordinators or program faculty will present the formal rationale for requests rather than the chairs.

Virtual Brown Bag Meetings

It was suggested that ideas be solicited for presentations. It may be possible to have invited guests as presenters. There could be one or two in the fall and one or two in the spring. It was suggested that Dr. aretha marbley, the Diversity Scholar, could potentially be invited to give a presentation.

Faculty Council Meetings for Fall 2021

The meetings are on the first and third Tuesdays of each month:

- Tuesday, September 7
- Tuesday, September 21
- Tuesday, October 5
- Tuesday, October 19
- Tuesday, November 2
- Tuesday, November 16
- Tuesday, December 7

It was suggested that Dean Mendez be invited to the September 21 meeting.