

Teaching Academy Executive Council Minutes February 13, 2014

Members Present:

Jennifer Bard, Gary Bell, Shannon Bichard, Dominick Casadonte, Peter Dotray, Gary Elbow, Deborah Fowler, William Pasewark, Suzanne Tapp

Members Not Present:

Kathryn Button, Janice Killian, Elizabeth Louden, Audra Morse

Approval of minutes:

Minutes from February 7, 2014 were distributed. Jennifer Bard moved that the minutes be approved. All in favor.

Welcome:

Jennifer Bard welcomed the members of the Executive Council.

Old Business:

Changes to By-Laws to add an "Honorary Membership" Status – Reopened for discussion

Shannon Bichard chaired a sub-committee responsible for revising the Teaching Academy By-Laws as it pertains to Honorary Membership. Honorary Membership would be extended by invitation only. The addition to the by law would be written as follows:

"Honorary membership (non-voting) may be extended to individuals who have demonstrated special commitment to the principles and purposes of the Teaching Academy."

Dominick Casadonte suggested that "by vote of the Teaching Academy Executive Council Members" be added to the above law. Bill Pasewark moved to approve the change to the By-Laws. All Approved.

Changes to By-Laws to reflect eligibility for membership – Reopened for Discussion

Shannon Bichard chaired a sub-committee responsible for revising the Teaching Academy By-Laws as it pertains to Membership. Two changes were suggested by the sub-committee:

Delete words "tenure or tenure track" from the qualifications under 3.1 part (a)

2) change the years at TTU from 3 years to 6 years under 3.1 part (a) (This item will be voted on at the next Executive Council Meeting for the 2014-2015 FY)

3) add the following statement to the membership portion of the OP possibly as item 3.2 or 3.3 These changes would allow full time professors of practice, instructors, and even librarians to apply, but the evidence of teaching excellence at TTU (which is 3.1 part d) would still have to be present. If they aren't teaching, they won't have such evidence. Also, by extending eligibility to faculty that have been here 6 years (instead of 3), we stress longevity in such excellence. This seems a nice compromise, allowing a broader criteria for eligibility, but a longer period of commitment. (This item has been tabled indefinitely)

There was discussion regarding the potential impact of these changes and the significance of the tenure process. It was suggested that a preamble be included affirming tenure and the Teaching Academy's support of tenure. After continued debate, it was decided that this agenda item and changes in the by-laws be tabled for later discussion.

Report from Chair:

Meeting with President Nellis

Jennifer Bard reported that President Nellis has agreed to meet with the Executive Council on May 2, 2014. Shannon Bichard will host this meeting (location is to be determined). Jennifer Bard suggested adding an agenda item for the next executive council meeting: items for discussion with President Nellis. Dominick Casadonte suggested an increase in the Teaching Academy budget be included as an item for discussion.

New Business:

Teaching Academy Plaques for Teaching Excellence - Tabled

Jennifer Bard brought up the plaques that are handed out each year during the Teaching Academy Induction Ceremony each year for teaching excellence. The cost of the plaques comes out of the Teaching Academy budget and nearly expunges the budget. Jennifer Bard suggested that there are other ways for the Teaching Academy to acknowledge the recipients of the awards that are given by the President's and Provost's offices, such as a certificate. Suggestions for alternative uses for the Teaching Academy Budget include some form of added recognition for inductees, travel funds to send Teaching Academy members to teaching and learning conferences, or adding a second conference (similar to the Burns Conference). Bill Pasewark suggested that the Teaching Academy consider establishing an endowment to fund the Burns Conference or other endeavors.

Dominick Casadonte suggested that it is possible that we cannot eliminate the plaques, but that the Executive Council might see if the Provost's office would be willing to pay for the plaques. Jennifer Bard moved to table this discussion until she has an opportunity to address this with Provost Schovanec.

Burns Conference 2014

She also asked the group continue to reflect on appropriate speakers for next year's Burns Conference. Jennifer Bard suggested Dr. Peter Elbow, who teaches on student writing and instruction.

Our next meeting will be March 7th at the Whitacre College of Engineering, hosted by Audra Morse

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted by Kimberly Leigh