

Teaching Academy Executive Council Minutes February 7, 2014

Members Present:

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

Members Not Present:

Kathryn Button, Gary Elbow, Janice Killian, Elizabeth Louden, Deborah Fowler, Audra Morse

Approval of minutes:

Minutes from January 17, 2014 were distributed. Dominick Casadonte moved that the minutes be approved. All in favor.

Welcome:

Jennifer Bard welcomed the members of the Executive Council.

Old Business:

*Changes to the Teaching Academy By-Laws- Chapter 4 - **Approved***

Audra Morse chaired a sub-committee responsible for revising the Teaching Academy By-Laws as it pertains to the Executive Council. Two new sections were added to Article IV- Executive 4.1 Membership.

4.1.3. If a member of the executive council leaves the university before fulfilling their three year term on the executive council, a replacement for the departing executive council member will be selected by electing a new member from the college the member represents to complete the initial three-year term and are eligible for reelection by their college to serve a full three-year term.

4.1.4. If a member of the executive council is on leave for one year of their three year term, or is anticipated to have an extended absence from the university, the executive council member must find a representative from his/her college to serve as a substitute in the executive council members absence. The substitute member assumes the voting rights and all other responsibilities of the member he/she is replacing.

Jennifer Bard opened the floor for discussion over the revisions and moved for a vote. All were in favor of 4.1.3. All were in favor of 4.1.4.

*Changes to By-Laws to reflect eligibility for membership - **Tabled***

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)*

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.

There was discussion regarding the potential impact of these changes and the potential statement made by the Teaching Academy as related to the significance of the tenure process. It was suggested that there be a preamble 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.

Changes to By-Laws to add an "Honorary Membership" Status - Tabled

Shannon Richard chaired a 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."

There was no final decision made on Honorary Membership.

Report from Chair:

Provost's Council

Jennifer Bard reported that she had presented the dates for our remaining Executive Council meetings to Jessica Carrillo, Dr. Nellis' Executive Assistant.

New Business:

Graduation

Jennifer Bard passed around a sign-up sheet for the Executive Council member to sign up to represent the Teaching Academy at Spring 2014 graduation.

She also asked the group to reflect on appropriate speakers for next year's Burns Conference.

Our next meeting will be February 13th at Sky Views, hosted by Deborah Fowler.

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted by Kimberly Leigh