

Minutes

Faculty Forum Meeting

Wednesday October 19, 2005

4:00pm

1. Ernie DeZolt introduced Jerry Sheehan. Jerry announces plans to cut student aide in order to reduce budget (by the government). He urges faculty members to call members of the House of Representatives, especially Republicans, to tell them not to cut Higher Education from the budget in order to fix the deficit. He suggests that lowering the deficit is a good thing, but not at the expense of Higher Education funding.
2. Ernie announces that we will be having a discussion at the meeting about the idea for a Faculty Governance Assembly and small group discussions about the Faculty Governance Assembly proposal. These smaller meetings will be informal and participatory.
3. Ernie envisions three components of today's discussion, focusing on Constitutional issues, Handbook issues, and specific questions and issues raised by individual members of the faculty.
4. Ernie introduces Bob Kolesar (MT) as chair of the Handbook committee to make some remarks about the FGA proposal and its relationship to the Faculty Handbook. Bob explains that the Handbook committee cannot formally endorse the FGA proposal because there are a number of places where the Handbook would have to be amended and it will be up to the Committee to review these changes before they are voted on. Bob listed the following Handbook issues that are raised by the FGA proposal.
 - a. The FGA proposal will abolish the Forum as it is now and Bob explains that he would like to make sure that there are still faculty meetings even without the Forum.
 - b. There are currently four standing committees of the faculty, which may be changed according to the proposed FGA.
 - c. If there are not quorums at the faculty meetings then issues can be sent out for a vote of the full faculty by the FGA.
 - d. It is the responsibility of the faculty Service Committee to draw lots for certain pools and perhaps the FGA is too big for that (at 25).
 - e. The right to faculty representation is now determined by the Faculty Service Committee and this would have to be amended.
 - f. The responsibility to have faculty meetings should be in the handbook.
5. David LaGuardia questioned Bob about whether the Handbook committee has the power to vote down the FGA proposal. Bob clarified the role the Handbook committee can and will play in the process.
6. Questions were raised about time frames for Handbook amendments and a block FGA proposal versus an amendment by amendment voting.
7. Ernie asked to move on to specific questions and comments about the FGA proposal. The following comments and discussions ensue.

- a. Jim Lissemore noted that RFSC was confusingly listed on multiple occasions in the FGA document. It was then explained that this was a formatting oversight and where the document reads RFSC we should read FGA.
 - b. Marcy Milota noted that many of the committees are listed two times, under both University and FGA headings. It was revealed that this reflects some confusion over where committees should belong.
 - c. The use of the lot was discussed as needing to be the responsibility of an independent committee, not the FGA.
 - d. Ed Peck asked whether there were really two models of governance in the FGA proposal, suggested that what drives the proposal is the problem of the quorum and brought up the issue of elected responsibility.
 - e. Dwight Hahn distinguished between a Forum and a Senate Model.
 - f. Jerry Weinstein argued that there is no need to have three meetings of the full faculty every semester. He explained that as it is attendance is terrible at these meetings and therefore perhaps full faculty meetings are not able to get anything done.
 - g. Ruth Fenske asked a question about the posting of minutes under the FGA plan.
 - h. Marcy proposed one faculty meeting a semester.
 - i. Val Flechtner asked how many people actually have a preference for the Forum and suggested that if people don't attend meetings they are not committed to the model.
 - j. Jim asked for there to be some mechanism in the FGA proposal for removal from office.
 - k. Fred Travis argued that the FGA proposal would make faculty governance more, not less, cumbersome.
 - l. Dwight Olson argued that the FGA will decrease faculty participation rather than increase it.
 - m. Bob Kolesar (HS) explained that the FGA provides an opportunity to participate even if you are not elected.
 - n. Frank Navratil pointed out that since the meetings are all open under the FGA plan that perhaps we don't need as many.
 - o. Fred defended the Forum as having been very effective, and points to the number of Forum proposals that have been accepted.
 - p. Jim added that there is time reserved at every FGA meeting to have open discussion.
 - q. Jerry was not in favor of having separate seats for non-tenured faculty members and believes that it is not in their interest as untenured faculty to get heavily involved in faculty governance.
 - r. Peter Kvidera commented on the mixed signals that are sent to untenured faculty members about service.
 - s. Brent Brossmann asked that people please send him corrections, etc.
 - t. Faculty members were urged to attend the small meetings.
8. The meeting is adjourned.

