

Faculty Assembly Meeting Minutes
 University Club Ballroom A
 October 5, 2010

Topic/Discussion	Action
<u>Call to Order.</u> President Michael R. Pinsky called the meeting to order at 3:05pm.	The meeting commenced.
<u>Approval of the Minutes of the September 7, 2010 Faculty Assembly Meeting.</u> President Pinsky asked for approval of the minutes of the September 7, 2010 Faculty Assembly meeting.	The minutes were approved as written.
<u>Introduction of Items of New Business.</u> President Pinsky asked if there were any new items of business to be brought forward.	No new items of business were presented.
<u>Report of the President.</u> President Pinsky gave the following report: The faculty newsletter is being sent electronically today. If you have any comments, please let us know. If any member of Faculty Assembly or the committees wish to have something included in future newsletters, please give it to us.	President Pinsky's report was approved and submitted.
<p><u>Unfinished Business and/or New Business.</u> None was reported.</p> <p><u>Faculty Assembly Outreach Program, Dr. Nicholas Bircher.</u> The purpose of today's discussion on this matter is 3-fold. 1) A general update on the faculty outreach program, 2) Solicit volunteers for the presentations, and 3) solicit volunteers to help with the schedule. We also plan to send out an electronic presentation to all members of Faculty Assembly. The primary mission of this program is to recruit as many of the faculty as we can to participate. We will prepare a template set of 5 or 6 slides for a brief presentation to your department. We suggest that you tailor this presentation to your specific department or division. Irene and I are realistic about the size of this task and the amount of time it will take to get these out to the various departments. Our time frame is to motivate people to participate in the Senate elections in the spring. We will try to get to as many as we possibly can. For those departments who do not have a direct representative, we will recruit someone to give those presentations. We want to reach as far down in the faculty structure as we possibly can. For instance, the typical attendance in the School of Medicine faculty meetings is only about 30 people. That would not be the best venue in which to give these presentations. We look forward to your support and active presentation. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me or Irene Freize.</p> <p>President Pinsky commented that as Faculty Assembly members, you are to represent the faculty in your department. We are trying to reach the most faculty possible.</p>	No unfinished business and/or new business.

-Kovacs commented that it is difficult to get people together in the Psychiatry department. Is there anything available to get emails out to the entire faculty?

-President Pinsky commented that we were not given an overall faculty email list because it would contribute to “junk mail”. President Pinsky suggested that you get the email list for each department.

-Balaban suggested to submit your email to the administrator for the department to send out the information in email format without getting the distribution list

-Singh commented that we got an email saying that Arts and Sciences were not participating as highly in the senate as other schools.

-Irene Frieze replied that, yes, this was the case and that there was low representation from Arts and Sciences faculty.

-Close suggested that there was a mistake in the May or June minutes regarding low participation in the School of Dental Medicine regarding faculty outreach.

-President Pinsky responded that we were happy with the participation of the School of Dental Medicine and that we would look at the notes to make sure that they did not say otherwise.

Plenary Update, Professor Audrey Murrell, Plenary Chair.

Social Entrepreneurship at Pitt: Innovators, Change-makers & Local Heroes. Tuesday, October 26, 2010. Noon-3pm. Assembly Room, William Pitt Union.

Social entrepreneurs combine research, knowledge and a passion for change to make an impact on the world around them. They are also described as non-traditional thinkers who use business solutions to address a social problem or mission. Across the Pitt campus, there are a number of examples of social entrepreneurship that utilize the expertise and innovative practice of our faculty, students and staff. Whether working with non-profit ventures, traditional business with a social mission or a hybrid partnership of business-government-community, social entrepreneurs look for the most effective methods to have a social impact that creates meaningful change. This plenary session will explore the various ways in which students, faculty and units across the University are engaged in research, projects and partnerships that tackle major social issues and offer new ideas for local and national change.

Some of the highlights of this plenary session include a video presentation from Micah Toll, a mechanical engineering student who is the two time winner of Pitt’s “Big Idea” competition. Additionally, the keynote address will be given by Dr. Rory A. Cooper, Distinguished Professor and FISA-Paralyzed Veterans of America Chair. We will also have a panel discussion and closing remarks from Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor, Patricia Beeson.

Reports by the Regional Campus Faculty Senate Presidents.

Greg Page, Bradford

1. Recent events include:
 - a. Met FTE of 1514 for the 2010-2011 academic year
 - i. Making second consecutive year of meeting a long standing goal for the campus
 - b. Dedication of the Sarah B. Dorn House (new 103-bed residence hall)
 - c. \$5.9 million renovation of science labs in Fisher Hall
2. Issues being addressed this year at Pitt-Bradford
 - a. Curricular development and assessment of global competence standard
 - b. Review of general education curriculum
 - c. Review and revise current distance education policies
 - d. Develop academic orientation program for new students
 - e. Develop campus sustainability committee

-President Pinsky commented that we look forward to collaborating with Bradford on the sustainability efforts.

-Munro asked what is the role of the sustainability committee and who are they reporting to?

-Page responded that they will be reporting directly to the campus president and that we just started pulling this committee together with a combination of faculty, staff and student representatives. We are still in the growing process.

-Vice-President Weiss asked Page to speak more about global competencies on Bradford's campus.

-Page responded that we have been required by the university to include global competencies into the list of proficiencies that need to be addressed in our course requirements. The information that I have access to is vague as to what constitutes global competencies. Having some conversations, this deals more with whether we are preparing our students to interact and understand the global environment.

Brian Houston, Johnstown

From my own observations, the campus itself is in a state of renovations. My challenge for this year is morale. We have a lot of new faculty who don't know the history of the university. How do we pull back the disenfranchised people on campus? I plan to use Dr. Bircher's ideas on how to get more faculty involved in the senate.

Frank Wilson, Greensburg

Briefly, I'm here now to report on the agenda we have set for the Greensburg campus Faculty Senate during the 2010-11 academic year. First, we are an undergraduate teaching unit of the University, with just under 1800 students, approximately one-third of who live on

campus. According to last year's (2009) data, there were 93 faculty members, 20 with the status of regular part-time instructor.

Approximately 40% of the full-time faculty is outside the tenure stream. This group and the part-timers make up about 54% of the total faculty. The basic teaching load for full-time faculty is 12 units per semester (typically four courses.)

We are currently in the process of revising our by-laws, originally approved in 1988. We are using this as a means of engaging ourselves in rethinking the nature of "shared governance" between the faculty and administration on our campus. It is our hope that the By-laws will become a practical operational blueprint for dealing with the challenges we all face in higher education generally, and for those we specifically must confront at the University of Pittsburgh, and on the Greensburg campus.

Our Educational Policies and Planning Committee is already dealing with a full workload. We have recently added new majors in Chemistry and Spanish, as well as a number of new minors. The first cohorts have just begun in our recently approved Education major and teacher-training programs. We have introduced a number of experimental course offerings, several geared for first-year students, which feature collaborative teaching across disciplinary and divisional lines. These changes, and more that will follow, are exciting and positive signs that we have been moving forward, in spite of the obstacles we have all had to face. They also present issues in terms of our current general education requirements that must be resolved. Many of those changes also impact the work of our Faculty Welfare Committee. Additionally, that group is being asked to enable a discussion, and debate if necessary, concerning all aspects of the processes of evaluating faculty. This includes the rules and standards for promotion and tenure, the appropriateness of the current system of performance evaluation for full-time non-tenure stream faculty, standards for part-time instructors, and student opinion surveys of our teaching.

Of course, buildings have recently been remodeled and expanded, more are scheduled to be built, and the University continues to upgrade instructional technologies. This growth also means that for additional standing committees, and special committees to be formed, membership will not simply be lines in the "Service" section of our annual reviews, but substantive commitments to working groups.

Discussion

There was a discussion regarding tenured vs. non-tenured faculty at the regional campuses. Points that were raised included:

- It was more difficult to obtain tenure on the regional campuses recently than in the past ten years.
- Standards are unclear on how to achieve tenure.
- The bar has been raised in terms of attainment of tenure and that it is

not specific to Pitt, but across all major universities.

Another line of discussion began with the challenges of dealing with “underprepared” students. Although the quality of students that we are getting at the university is high, they are still underprepared. Faculty were concerned on how students could be underprepared when our admission standards, enrollment and quality of students are increasing.

Faculty commented that the original discussion was not about the quality of the students, but that the mastery of prerequisite materials is not as it was in the past and that it creates a challenge for staffing at the regional campuses as well as at the main campus.

Additionally, a comment was made that while many of us may share the general philosophy that it is thought not to be the job of higher education to teach basic math and writing skills, it is now. Our principle strategy is to recruit the best adult learners that we can which is an effective recruitment strategy.

Concerns were raised on whether or not there is any data to suggest that students benefit from remedial classes

President Pinsky asked Andy Blair to comment on the accreditation effort.

-Blair responded: The core of the accreditation effort is to focus on two things: 1) institutional assessment - how we are doing and 2) student learning/student outcomes. Those are the two specific standards in the fourteen standards that Middle States wants us to adhere to. The others we are going to address, with Middle States’ agreement, by pointing to documents that show how an established institution meets those standards. We have had a major student learning/outcomes assessment effort ongoing at this university as many people know. Patty Beeson spearheaded that going back several years. We think we are in pretty good shape, and are coming to grips with some of the issues we are hearing today.

Blair then spoke wearing his “faculty hat” and noted that he has been teaching for decades and has seen a remarkable improvement in the student profile. He wouldn’t want the impression to be taken away from this meeting that our student body has been slipping in quality. It is improving remarkably and anyone who has been in the classroom for a number of years can attest to that.

President Pinsky thanked Andy Blair for his administrative and faculty comments.

Announcements. The senate council meeting will be held next week.

Adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 4:32pm.

Meeting was adjourned.

Members attending:

Baker, Balaban, Becker, Berry, Bircher, Burkoff, Chisholm, Close, Culley, Daley, Elliott, Fonzi, Frank, Frieze, Gaddy, Gallagher, Galloway, Harbert, Hartman, Henker, Ho, Kelly, Kovacs, Lin, Lunsford, Miller, Molinaro, Munro, Pinsky, Rinaman, Savinov, Singh, Smith, Spring, Steinberg, Sukits, Terry, Trovato, Weiss, Wilson, Withiam

Members not attending:

Bauer, Beatty, Booneau, Boone, Brake, Caldwell, Chaiklin, Chase, Deitrick, Greenberg, Hall, Hravnak, Karapinka, Kearns, Kendrick, Landy, Majumdar, Mark, Muller, Pan, Ray, Savoia, Shaiman, Smitherman, Smolinski, Towers, Wendell, Zutter

*Excused attendance:

Arena, Bartholomae, Buchanich, Costantino, Erlen, Fabian, Iwema, Johnson, Kear, Labrinidis, Neufeld, Otto, Rougeux, Seybert, Slimick, Sparto, Tuite

Others attending:

Blair, Brendel, Fedele, Hart, Houston, Page, Murrell

*Notified Senate office