

Ag. Faculty Counsel Meeting

May 10, 2010

Minutes

Interim Secretary: Mueller

Attendees included incoming members (Tim Cooling, Brian Lee, Tom Mueller, Kenny Seebold, and Tim Stombaugh), continuing members (Ric Bessin, and Mary Roseman), outgoing member (Rick Durham who served as chair), and Ex Officio members (Lisa Collins and Dean Scott Smith). The agenda items circulated prior to the meeting were 1) opening remarks by Rick Durham and introduction of the 2010-2011 council, 2) remarks by Dean Smith, 3) remarks by Lisa Collins, 4) old business (review/approval of minutes from the last meeting, brief discussion of AFC activity for 2009-2010), and 4) new business (election of new officers for the 2010-2011 AFC and other new business).

Remarks by Rick Durham

Rick Durham began the meeting with some opening remarks. Then he asked the participants to introduce themselves.

Remarks by Dean Smith

Dr. Smith indicated that this has been a highly functional committee in the past. Last year the council was particularly busy rewriting the college rules and procedures and addressing the teaching overload issue. This year he does not anticipate that we will be as busy as last year and he anticipates that our responsibilities will include 1) clarification of rules as needed, 2) acting as a sounding board for the administration, 2) coordinate events (Q and A faculty meeting, promotion and tenure workshop, and the fall faculty meeting), 3) nominating new members, 4) nominating members for P&T committee, and 5) and bringing proposals, suggestions, and complaints to the administration. The Dean indicated that Lisa Collins and her office would provide support. In response to a question from Stombaugh, the Dean indicated that the council does not serve at the pleasure of the Dean. Instead, we represent the faculty.

Remarks by Lisa Collins

Dr. Collins indicated that Brooke Stone manages AFC's web site. Then she discussed one of the tasks that the AFC was involved with last year that may need to address this year. Specifically, she indicated that we need to make sure the college is following the correct rules for voting privileges. Our rules that indicate that instructors may have privileges to vote but is not specific. We need to clarify this. This will involve communication with Davy Jones's office. Dr. Collins also indicated that her office provides support and food for meetings.

Old Business

We first decided to not to vote on whether to approve the minutes from the last meeting because most of the people at that meeting were not at this meeting. Instead, Rick Durham will take care of this by email. Next Durham discussed activities by AFC. It was noted that last time the

function 1) for new faculty was in August, 2) the fall faculty meeting was in October, and 3) the promotion and tenure workshop was in April. Next Durham described the activities by the AFC during the 2009-2010 term. He indicated that 1) a statement on teaching overload was sent out for comment to AFC, 2) the strategic plan was circulated to AFC (there were no comments), 3) the committee was asked to consider how tuition fees were used in the associate Dean's office for Instruction (20% held back by associate deans office rather than used for things like transportation), and 4) procedures for handing course evaluations were discussed. On this last topic, the AFC considered how the course evaluations were administered, interpreted, and used for instructor evaluation. This stemmed from a case where a department chair sent out course evaluation comments to faculty members. The AFC was going to consider standards for determining who is allowed to see these comments. The AFC would probably not have done this solo but in conjunction with the Associate Deans Office for Instruction and perhaps with other faculty input. However, this issue was tabled in part because of changes in the associate dean's office for instruction. However, now Larry Grabau and Larry Jones both indicated they are open to addressing this issue. An consideration that may impact this issue is that the Provost is now considering making evaluations for courses electronic. The AFC then began to discussed some of the issues about what the impacts of the electronic evaluations may be. Next Rick discussed the revision of Rules and Procedures. The last time it was fully ratified was in 1995 so it was very out of date. Between 1995 and now there were modification to the Rules and Procedures that had conditional approval. However, now we have a proposal for changes in the rules and procedures that has received tentative college and provost approval. It has been sent out to the faculty to vote upon along with the University Senate election. Next, Durham made a few notes of how things are typically done by the AFC. Generally the council has monthly meetings but late last year, some of the meetings were electronic after the Rules and Procedures were addressed. He also indicated that Jamie Profitt is our IT contact who can set up elections.

New Business

Durham told the AFC who were the council officers were for the 2009-2010 term: Rick Durham was chair and Laurie Fields was secretary. Then we discussed officers for the 2010-2011 term. Ric Bessin was nominated for chair and Tom Mueller was nominated for Secretary. Both indicated they would be willing to serve but both would be open to have some of the other members that were not there to serve as officers instead if they were interested. Rick Durham indicated that he will pole the 4 continuing members who were not in attendance in order to determine whether they would be interested in self nominating. After he makes this determination, we will have an email vote to elect officers before next meeting. Next there were clarifications about AFC events. The fall faculty meeting was formerly called the fall convocation but should not be called this any more in order to avoid confusion. In the past the AFC had considered whether the fall faculty meeting should be open to staff as well but it was decided that only faculty should be invited. It was noted that Q and A was a separate event from the fall faculty meeting. Last year the P and T workshop was in the Cameron Williams and the fall faculty meeting and Q and A sessions were in the Good Barn. We next considered how we could increase participation for these events. We considered whether we should combined the fall faculty meeting and Q and A session and most of us felt that this was a good idea. However, we may not be able to do this according to rules and procedures, because we may be required to have two annual faculty meetings. Collins indicated that she will look into this and respond to the committee. Lee suggested creating a calendar that could include events like meeting days

and roundup and we could link this off the Ag faculty website. Collins, Lee, and Mueller will look into this before next meeting. Next we discussed the new faculty function. Last year it included the new hires that were made over the previous 2 years. The invites included the new faculty, chairs, and associate deans. Durham suggested that the next new faculty meeting be scheduled in October. However, Bessin felt that we should meet in June to make sure we are prepared for the upcoming new faculty workshop. The meeting was adjourned.