

General Faculty Meeting Minutes
Final
Wednesday 23, April 2008
3:08 pm in Kennedy Lounge

1. Approval of Agenda – Agenda was approved unanimously with two changes.
2. Approval of minutes of General Faculty Meeting of November 28, 2007 – the minutes
3. Change to the Faculty Handbook – a discussion ensued on possible upshots of having the IRB and IACUC committees solely under the Research dean and out of faculty control. Some highlights:
 - The committees are guided by federal regulations.
 - The minutes of these committees are confidential and cannot be submitted to the Faculty Senate.
 - The change to the Handbook is an attempt to make the Faculty Handbook more inline with Federal Guidelines.
 - The change was approved: 25 voting for the change and 3 against.
4. Announcements and updates – Dr. Romine
 - Not sure what will happen with the search of CAS dean.
 - The search committee submitted its recommendations to Dr. Rivera regarding the Associate VPAA
 - Reviews of administrators are due on 4/25.
5. Dr. Tom Ward – Collective Bargaining Update
 - The teams agreed on 29 on 31 articles. The faculty declared impasse on 2 items. The team asked the local labor board for a mediator. That will happen as soon as the local board gets a mediator. If the mediation fails, the case will go to binding arbitration.
 - The teams agreed on minimum salaries. The faculty's team wants the administration to specify the formula for distributing money.
 - Grievances – there is need for a clear process for administration and what can be grieved.
 - There was a question about whether it is possible to go through AY '08-'09 without a contract.
6. Dr. Rivera – presentation and discussion on the proposed restructuring of CAS.
 - The status of the Dean of CAS search depends on the restructuring.
 - Dean of Education search – the last candidate arrives tomorrow.
 - Associate VPAA – there will be 2 interviews

- Restructuring:
 - The restructuring is not final - just recommendations.
 - Dr. Rivera indicated that upon his return to NMHU he recognized the need for more tenure/tenure track positions
 - Got a group of faculty together during last summer to provide recommendations about departments, student's recruitment and retention. Dr. Rivera said that he did not receive recommendations regarding recruitment and retention.
 - He checked the administration structure and budget for deans and saw that there is budget for 2 associate deans (there was only one position this year).
 - The proposed restructuring of CAS includes the division of the college into two: College of Liberal and Fine Arts, and College of Science and Mathematics. Both colleges will have departments, Division chairs, and deans. Dr. LaGrange and Dr. Lujan provided feedback.
 - Coordinator or Chair – the authority, responsibility, and accountability will be included in that role. Dr. Rivera is looking at a cross between chair and coordinator to bring attention to it to the role.
 - Department chair has some administrative authority and duties, but the person is also faculty. Dr. Rivera's position is that department chairs are accountable to both faculty and administration. Department chairs need to be compensated appropriately and get release time appropriately. Right now they work 2 weeks before and after school, but they are not required to be available during the summer. Dr. Rivera suggested that chairs will be on-call during the summer.
 - With the restructuring Computer Science and Media Arts will move to the School of Business. Both programs may benefit from contact with people from marketing and other in business.
 - The intention of the restructuring was to create some discussion.

Q & A – a lively discussion ensued (☺ Peter Linder ☺)

- Dr. Jeffries – In 2001 Dr. Fries reorganized the university to save money. What you see now is a result of the reorganization. Faculty in Math and Computer Science left as a result of the 2001 reorganization that and as a result of actions of 'unfortunate administration.'
- Dr. Hill – One of the sources of confusion for the faculty members who met during the summer to discuss the reorganization was the fact that the objectives of the reorganization were not communicated to them

- Dr. Tamir – We met last summer on our time and our money. We provided input early in Fall Semester but received no communication from the administration until about 10 days ago.
- Dr. Carol Linder and Dr. Lindline – Some faculty members are on campus during the summer because they care about the students - but they need to be compensated.
- Dr. Hill – If you want new programs/initiatives ask us (faculty), but there is no need to bind such initiatives with reorganization.
- Dr. Carol Linder – Breaking up programs to small departments will not solve issues pertaining to enrolment, retention, and accreditation. Moreover, smaller departments will have to be responsible for all committees' responsibilities.
- Dr. Rivera – Reorganization will create new opportunities for students.
- Dr. Carol Linder – that's what we tried to do with the forensic science program. We have students that are interested but we were not able to hire the necessary faculty. Dr. Rivera – the reason the program is on hold is because the program would have cost a lot more than anticipated.
- Dr. Rivera – there is no timeline for the changes.

Respectfully submitted by

Orit Tamir
Faculty Senate Secretary