FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

October 13, 2014, 3:15 p.m.
1103C Houston Cole Library


Members Absent: Mark Camp, Mike Davis, Charles Notar, David Wood

I. Call to Order: President Melanie Wallace called the meeting to order, distributed binders to new Senators (others can get new ones by request), and introduced our guest.

II. Guest: Ms. Gena Christopher, Director, Faculty Commons, discussed the mission of the Faculty Commons as JSU’s Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, as well as resources available for faculty. The theme for this, the center’s first year, is “Teaching for REAL—Relevant, Engaging, Active Learning.” There are several activities already planned, and faculty are encouraged to contact Ms. Christopher with ideas for other ways they need support.

- Faculty Mentor Training for the QEP is ongoing this year.
- The REAL Classroom Design Project is accepting applications from faculty teams who want to create collaborative learning spaces in their departments. Up to 8 classrooms will be funded by recommendation of the Faculty Commons Advisory Board, with awards up to $10,000 each. Faculty must work with students to choose furnishings, but they need not already have finished plans for the redesign; winning teams will receive guidance and support in this planning process. (The application deadline is December 1, 2014.)
- Faculty may initiate Learning Communities for various purposes—faculty committees, book clubs, any group of faculty meeting for a common purpose; the Faculty Commons has a small budget to assist with some expenses (snacks, etc.).
- The Faculty Lecture Series will invite four prominent speakers to campus this year. Dr. Bill Rankin was the first; the next, on November 14 (10:00 a.m., 11th floor HCL) will be Dr. Erik Christensen, who will talk about his experience flipping the classroom.
- “Talk and Walk” (or “Talk and Talk” for those unable to walk): Faculty members will meet monthly during their lunch breaks to discuss a particular topic of interest as they walk together around campus. Participants may be asked to watch a short video or read an article beforehand.
- REAL Teaching Grants of up to $2,000 are available for any pedagogical project. The Advisory Board will evaluate proposals; up to 4 will be awarded. (The application deadline is November 3, 2014.)
- Faculty are encouraged to come visit the Faculty Commons offices in 216–217 Self Hall and make use of the space for meetings or just to hang out and share ideas. There will be an open house just before the Christmas break.

III. Approval of Minutes: The September 2014 meeting minutes were approved as corrected.

IV. Officer Reports
A. President’s Report—Dr. Melanie Wallace

- Dr. Wallace introduced the Senate officers present (Windon Edge, President-Elect; David Dempsey, Secretary; Robbie Boggs, Historian).
- At the September 18 University Council meeting, a new summer term calendar was approved, after lengthy discussion, to include only May 4 Week, May 6 Week, May 12 Week, and June 6 Week terms. Concerns were raised as to how this would affect faculty summer pay and how May term obligations would be handled, as well as how to provide faculty input before such decisions are made; the Policies and Welfare Committees were asked to brainstorm input on the matter.
- At the October 1 University Council meeting, information was shared on the updated degree evaluation software, CAPP (Curriculum Advisement Program Planning). Faculty are encouraged to make use of this in Banner when advising students. A tutorial video can be viewed on the Academic Advisement website and JSU YouTube. A student information video on CAPP, “Cocky Gone Mad,” will premier this month on those websites and on the scoreboard at football games.
- When Dr. Wallace approached the Physical Plant staff about planting a tree in honor of Dr. Meehan, they offered to plant a tree and also place a bench on a concrete pad nearby without cost to us; the Faculty Senate will only pay for the plaques.

V. Unfinished Business:

- Senators were asked to sign the copy of The Giving Tree presented to Dr. Meehan at the last meeting.

VI. New Business:

- A question was raised as to the criteria for Presidential candidates; the Executive Committee has discussed this, as well. Dr. Wallace and SGA President Brett Johnson are both on the Presidential Search Committee and will represent faculty and student interests, asking such questions when the opportunity arises. That committee will meet following the October 20 Board of Trustees Meeting. Dr. Wallace said that she intends to send regular updates (within the boundaries of established confidentiality agreements of the search committee) to Senators about the status of the Presidential search.
- A motion was made to task the Executive Committee with writing a statement to convey faculty concerns, contributions, and/or inquiries about the Presidential search early on in the process. Senators were asked to email Dr. Wallace with ideas for such a recommendation.
- Senators were asked to encourage faculty to join the Higher Education Partnership.
- A question was raised about the fate of a proposal to raise adjunct salary. The Welfare Committee was tasked with investigating.

VII. Announcements:

- History—Dr. Don Prudlo has secured a grant to fund the Antigone Lecture Series, which opens on Oct. 16 with a lecture by Dr. David Corey (Baylor University) on “Liberty in the Ancient World.”
- Drama—Chekov’s The Seagull premiers Oct. 16–19. Tickets are $8 for JSU personnel.

VIII. Adjournment to Committees: The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Wallace at 4:22 p.m. The Standing Committees, having been appointed by the Executive Committee, met briefly to elect Chairs and make plans to meet, if necessary.