Dr. Bridges,

The Faculty Senate met on Friday, September 27, 2013. The topics of discussion were widely varied. The resulting recommendations are discussed below.

We first revisited the issue of the scheduling of Honor’s Day, which was tabled from our last meeting. Since the August 30 meeting, the senators have gathered input and suggestions from their respective departments. The Senate recommends that the Honor’s Day ceremony be divided into two distinct events – one for student awards, the other for faculty/staff awards. It is thought that such a separation will add significance to each award given and also provide the faculty and staff an opportunity to socialize outside of working hours, thereby increasing morale. A suggestion was made to have our Ambassadors and/or our Early Childhood Education majors provide childcare for the younger children of the faculty and staff attending the banquet/ceremony. It is not expected that attendance be made mandatory, but recipients or nominees should receive special invitations. The students’ ceremony would still be held during the day, preferably not during the last week of class, and late enough in the afternoon to avoid as many class conflicts as possible. Faculty and staff would, of course, attend this event as well.

The second item on the agenda involved a review of the ABAC Bookstore’s purchase and sales policies. Information was received from Tracy Dyal, upon the request of the Senate, detailing these processes. However, more detailed data is needed to continue the review. Dr. Doug Waid was appointed to take charge in collecting data and information from faculty whose classes were impacted due to lack of necessary materials. No recommendations could be made at this meeting, but the Senate does request access to the purchase and ordering data from the beginning of this semester.

Finally, there was some discussion about various differences between the 2010 edition of our Promotion and Tenure Guidelines and the edition released at the beginning of this semester. The noted differences are detailed below:
It goes without saying that the Senate unanimously recommends that the item numbering on page 15 be corrected.

This review of the Guidelines for Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure revealed changes to the wording that were made after the Faculty Senate forwarded their approved revisions to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. The Guidelines were published with the changes without consultation of the Faculty Senate, although it states on the title pages “Approved by Faculty Senate February 19, 2010.” This has raised concerns among the Senate members and resulted in discussion and a motion designed to prevent occurrences such as this in the future. While some of the changes are minor, in and of themselves, there has been a significant change made in Section III part A that the Faculty Senate would like restored. The current heading for part A states “Contribution to Teaching and Advising.” The Faculty Senate unanimously recommends that the heading be restored to the original form “Contributions to Teaching.” Further, the Senate requests that the subsequent changes made on the evaluation forms for Promotion, Pre-tenure, Tenure, and Post-tenure also be restored to the original “Contributions to Teaching.” The text contained in part A of Section III makes it clear that advising is considered part of our contributions to teaching, therefore, the change of title is unnecessary.

As mentioned above, under the current procedure for revising The Guidelines, the Faculty Senate is not privy to any changes made after its revisions are proposed. The Senate requests that it have the opportunity to review the final draft of The Guidelines before the document is published. Since the responsibility for revision of The Guidelines rests mostly with the Faculty Senate, we strongly believe that any changes recommended by the President’s Cabinet should, at least, be discussed by the Faculty Senate before being made official. This motion passed unanimously.

I look forward to any response you provide. Please feel free to contact me at any time should you have questions regarding these recommendations.

Sincerely,

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