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Faculty Assembly Meeting
March 5, 2014
Bazarsky Auditorium, O'Hare Academic Center
3:00-4:30 p.m.
Quorum Count: 71

The minutes from the February 2014 meeting were approved by voice vote without objection.

Announcements:

Jim Ludes, chair of the provost search committee, gave an update on the progress of the provost search.

Treasurer's Report (Lisa Zuccarelli): The current amount is \$1,271.50. Expenditures include refreshments (\$100) and Survey Monkey fees (\$204).

Myra Edelstein announced the Mission Committee's "Faces of Mercy" contest and the "Mercy and the Catholic Intellectual Tradition" call for papers.

Emily Colbert-Cairns and Jen McClanaghan announced that the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Working Group will be proposing an interdisciplinary minor in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and encouraged faculty who teach courses related to that subject to submit syllabi.

Jayne Hennessy announced that the Elections Committee would be asking for committee nominations on March 17 and would send out the ballots for voting on March 24.

Motion: That the Faculty Assembly endorse the statement on course cap size as posted on the Canvas Faculty Assembly page.

Question: Is there a financial impact associated with this proposal?

Answer (Dean de la Motte): Yes

Question: How would it be paid for? Would smaller classes be less likely to run to make up for smaller class sizes in core courses?

Discussion: This is a chance for faculty to weigh in on the issue. The faculty isn't able to predict financial issues.

Question: What do faculty teaching these courses think about class size? Has there been a survey?

Question: Is there data associated class size and student retention?

Discussion: Experience is a good indicator. No scholarship gets done with larger classes.

Discussion: Lower class caps will lead to frustrated students. Will that mean that departments will have to increase the cap size?

Discussion: Department chairs are asked by the registrar to increase cap size when that happens.

Discussion: It seems obvious. If faculty want to encourage critical thinking, critical writing, and quality discussions, 35 is too many students. It is hypocritical to say that the university offers small classes.

Discussion: 35 students doesn't allow for one-on-one interaction or experiential learning.

Question: What is a lecture class? How is that defined? What is the criteria?

Discussion: It's a bookkeeping issue. Courses have to be either a lecture or a lab. Those are the only choices given to chairs.

Discussion: In the past, department chairs were able to go to the dean and negotiate class size. This is the time with a new provost to let the administration know what the faculty's views are on the issue.

Response (Dean de la Motte): The lecture designation is a placeholder that indicates what kind of facility the class takes place in.

VOTE:

Yes = 61

No = 7

Abstain = 3

The motion passed.

Motion: That the Faculty Assembly endorse the statement on information technology as posted on the Canvas Faculty Assembly page.

Question: On #7, IT doesn't handle development of personal websites for faculty.

Discussion: There's confusion about what IT is responsible for. The responsibility over the issues referred to in the document is spread among different offices.

Discussion: I prefer a statement going to administration that identifies who is responsible for what.

Discussion: The statement should go to Sr. Jane so that she can share it with her monthly communication meeting to determine who is responsible for what.

Discussion: Ty Brennan should receive the list.

Discussion: The word “Information” should be deleted from the title to avoid confusion with the actual IT department.

Motion to table the motion regarding the Faculty Assembly statement on IT:

VOTE:

Yes = 40

No = 24

Abstain = 1

The motion passed.

Steve Symington (Curriculum Committee) gave a report on committee activity in February.

Laura O’Toole (Dean of Arts and Sciences) gave a report on the process and timeline for course submission for the new core curriculum, including the university seminars.

Motion to table the Faculty Manual Forums passed by voice vote.

Adjourned 4:31 p.m.