

10-1-2014

AS Minutes 2014 10 01

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Recommended Citation

Salve Regina University, "AS Minutes 2014 10 01" (2014). *Faculty Assembly Documents*. Paper 208.
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Faculty Assembly Meeting
October 1, 2014
Ochre Court State Dining Room
3:00-4:30 p.m.
Quorum Count: 59

The minutes from the May 2014 meeting were approved without objection.

Announcements:

Craig Condella (Speaker) welcomed the new provost, Dr. Scott Zeman, to the Faculty Assembly.

Annette Torrey (Director, Center for Teaching and Learning) announced that the CTL has opened its new offices in the garden level of McKillop Library and described the facilities available for faculty use.

Mariann Maida (Conferences and Events) issued the annual R25 announcement about scheduling spaces outside of class use.

Treasurer's Report (James Yarnall): The current amount in the Assembly's fund is \$528.68. Dr. Yarnall announced an increase in the amount of money given to departments to provide refreshments for each meeting and asked faculty members to pay their dues.

Athletics Report (John Rok): The report included an update on student-athlete progress and the announcement of an annual scholarship competition for student-athletes in their final season of competition.

Craig Condella announced that the Faculty Assembly Canvas page would be moving from a Group format to a Course format and gave a brief tour of the new page's features.

Academic Integrity Policy:

Craig Condella gave background information on the issue of creating a student-faculty honor board to deal with academic integrity and professional standards cases.

Dr. Condella asked for volunteers to serve on a faculty committee that will work with Malcolm Smith (Dean of Students) and be charged with creating the academic integrity policy.

It is hoped that such a policy will be approved by the end of the academic year.

Question: Is there a way to have students involved in the process as a way of facilitating overall student buy-in?

Answer (Craig Condella): Student participation is expected.

Question: Faculty now make punishment decisions for students found guilty of academic integrity violations. How will the new policy affect faculty control over this process?

Answer (Craig Condella): That's still an open question. The goal is to maintain autonomy for faculty in their courses while also maintaining a record of academic integrity cases and following a clear procedure and process for deciding such cases. Different disciplines/departments have different academic integrity and professional standards.

Question: Is it really true that standards of professionalism differ by department?

Answer (Craig Condella): Department standards do vary. For example, a musical score and a philosophy paper may have different plagiarism standards.

Comment: Students need an appeal process that is clear.

Question: Would this new committee come back to the Faculty Assembly to approve its policy document?

Answer (Craig Condella): Yes

Curriculum Committee Online Proposal System:

Eileen Gray and Madeleine Esch announced that curriculum proposals will now be submitted and reviewed entirely online and went through the procedure for submitting and reviewing such proposals.

Question: Does the Curriculum Committee (CC) approve or disapprove proposals? Does a proposal have to have CC approval to go to the full Faculty Assembly?

Answer (Eileen Gray): The CC approves or rejects proposals based on format and whether the proposal is complete.

Question: Are comments made on proposals viewable on the website?

Answer (Eileen Gray): Yes, even though they're anonymous.

Question: Can we change the language to read "Approval to move forward to the Faculty Assembly" rather than simply "Approve," which causes some confusion about the CC's role?

Answer (Eileen Gray): Yes

Question: What about a proposal that provokes significant objections? How will that be handled?

Answer (Eileen Gray): No difference. If the proposal is properly formatted and complete, it will move forward to the Faculty Assembly.

Comment: We should say that a proposal is “Complete” rather than “Approved” or “Rejected” so that there are no connotations.

Question: Does this committee exist to do recordkeeping or is it advisory at all? Is there some level of evaluation of proposals or does the CC just make sure proposals are complete?

Comment: In the past, the CC has volunteered to mediate tensions between departments regarding proposals. The CC also has the power to decide which curriculum changes are significant and require Assembly approval and which are not.

Answer (Eileen Gray): The CC is developing a list of what type of proposal constitutes a significant change and requires Assembly approval, which will be submitted to the Faculty Assembly for approval before going into effect.

Question: Is this the committee that will review the courses for the new core? If so, have criteria been established for those courses?

Answer (Eileen Gray): No, that is the responsibility of the Core Review Committee.

Question: Are interdisciplinary program coordinators included on the list of department chairs and program directors?

Answer (Eileen Gray): Yes

FACSB:

Jameson Chace, co-chair of FACSB, gave an overview of the committee’s purpose and asked faculty to forward any issues or concerns they have about salary and benefits to the committee.

Question: The 1% raise for faculty was dispiriting given the large size of the freshman class and the improved retention rate. We have lost adjuncts because of the low compensation they receive. The library is cutting journals because their budget is flat. Where is the money going?

Comment: The money went at least in part to financial aid for the incoming freshman class.

Comment: We would be more comfortable with such austerity measures if there was more transparency and the administration shared the numbers.

Comment: The pension contribution still hasn’t reached the 8.5% level it was at before the recession.

Adjourned 4:12 p.m.