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MINUTES

Faculty Assembly
Wednesday, April 13, 2016
Bazarsky Auditorium

Quorum Count: **68**

I. Approval of Minutes of Faculty Assembly Meeting of March 2, 2016:

John Quinn proposes several corrections to the minutes. Laura O'Toole points out an omission.

Minutes are approved with corrections.

II. Reflection: Dr. Jayme Hennessy

III. Treasurer's Report: Dr. Emily Colbert Cairns

IV. Scheduled Announcements

- Dr. Emily Colbert Cairns, Special Newport Architecture Tour, May 17
- Drs. Laura O'Toole, Jameson Chace, & Emily Colbert Cairns, Strategic Focus on Community Engagement and the Carnegie Classification: Curricular Initiatives
- James Mitchell, Short-term study abroad proposals
- Drs. Amanda Minor & Thomas Arruda, Social Committee: Year-end party, May 11 or 12

V. Dr. Barbara LoMonaco, Vice President for Student Affairs

Presentation on the Center for Student Development (CSD) Model (refer to PPT)

VI. Dr. Scott C. Zeman, Provost

- Overview of Administrative Appointment Procedures & Policies.

Question: In light of your interest in making this transparent, shouldn't there be a discussion rather than being told (in the case of the Pell director, for instance) it's not in FA's purview?

Answer (Scott Zeman): I was asked, and I offered my opinion to the Chair of the FA that making administrative appointments was not in the purview of this assembly, but I would encourage discussion in and input from this body.

Comment: With all the hard work done on committees, I'm surprised to see the seemingly arbitrary process of faculty appointments. I'm surprised there isn't a committee to advise on these appointments.

Answer (Scott Zeman): We need to work on these processes so they don't seem arbitrary.

Question: If the process of the appointment of Graduate Program Directors is "defined but not published in the Faculty Manual," where is it?

Answer (Scott Zeman): There is a document, approved by this body at some point in the past, that specifies the process as virtually identical to the selection of department chairs.

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Question: Are terms renewable forever?

Answer (Scott Zeman): As far as I know there are no term limits.

➤ Announcement of Committee on Diversity in the Curriculum

There will be a task force appointed by provost to look at diversity in the curriculum. Dr. Emily Colbert-Cairns will chair the task force. The task force will make short- and long-term recommendations for increasing diversity in the curriculum.

VII. Response to Parliamentary Inquiry on Committee Responsibilities

Parliamentary Inquiry: What can FA do when a committee has not met its charge? After investigating the question, the speaker has determined that neither the CRC nor the CC has failed its charge. In the case of CRC: due to the leave-of-absence of the Dean of Academics, the assessment of the core has been delayed. In the case of the CC: The Race and Racism proposal had a procedural error. It proposed a minor change to the core, though the change would be substantive and therefore could not proceed to FA. The only additional steps that could be taken now would be to censure or sanction a committee. This would lead to a motion and a vote.

Question: Can we see this? (What led to this inquiry.)

Answer (James L. Yarnall): You will have to refer to the minutes of Feb 3.

Question: What is the effect of censure?

Answer (James L. Yarnall): It just goes on the record that the committee did not do its job.

Comment: Is it in the EC's view that parliamentary procedure is good for the FA in the long term? Because it has real, negative consequences, which many people feel.

VIII: Committee Reports

- Dr. Timothy B. Neary: Nominations & Elections Committee, Election Results
- Dr. Scott C. Zeman & Ms. Debra Grosskurth: Faculty Manual Commission Update
- Dr. Madeleine Esch: Curriculum Committee, Notifications and 3 motions.

Notification of changes approved by CC:

Changes to ENG courses in the catalog, Creative Writing minor revisions, Film minor revisions.

The following curricular changes must be voted on.

Motion: The Curriculum Committee moves that the Faculty Assembly endorse the proposal to amend the Environmental Studies, Global Studies, and Sociology & Anthropology (CEGS) majors.

Yes (81%) No (18%) Abstain (1%)

The motion passed.

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Motion: The Curriculum Committee moves that the Faculty Assembly endorse the proposal to create a minor in Italian Studies.

Comment: Former provost and outside reviewer recommended the department not add additional majors/minors.

Answer (Dean de la Motte): The concern was with adding *new* languages. Italian is already offered.

Answer (James Mitchell): An Italian minor would respond to the needs of many students. We offer 5 section of Intro. This is the first new program offered in at least ten years.

Question: Can a course be proposed from another department?

Answer (James Mitchell): Yes. Relevant courses could be proposed.

Yes (88%) No (10%) Abstain (1%)

The motion passed.

Motion: The Curriculum Committee moves that the Faculty Assembly endorse the proposal to revise the Politics major.

There was one negative comment about upper-level courses that appeared to have a low workload.

Answer (Clark Merrill): These changes were prompted by the program review. These are “Skills for Success” courses—Research Methods and Senior Thesis along with a 1-credit course that prepares students to defend their thesis.

Yes (94%) No (3%) Abstain (3%)

The motion passed.

IX. Other Business/Unscheduled Announcements

Many plays, readings, celebrations.

Adjournment: **4:32**