SOU Faculty Senate Minutes

December 1, 2014

SU 313 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Members Present: Brown, Carter, Feist, Ferguson, Hughes, May, Nordquist, Ormes, Lane, Purslow, Richards, Rosenberg, Russell-Miller, Harvey, Shrewsbury, Slattery.

Others Present: Roy Saigo, Susan Walsh

Guests: Torii Uyehara, Jody Waters, Sherry Ettlich, Brian Stonelake, Steve Thorpe

4:00 Approval of Minutes for November 3: Postponed

4:03 Announcements

* Baby girl, Everly Blue, born to David Carter family
* Need to manage final enrollments: Get students to register as soon as possible

**Information Items**

4:05 Comments from President Saigo

* Athletics has gone extraordinarily well this year; not only did our football team earn the right to compete in the championship game by coming from behind in the fourth quarter, but
* 3 of the most successful coaches in Oregon are SOU alumni.
* Athletics, like everything else we do, is focused on educating our students.

4:15 Comments from Provost Walsh

* Many statewide initiatives are up-in-the air, so it is premature to present reports on their progress
* Question (Purslow) Apparently class size limits have been unilaterally raised via banner by the Administration; by what process was this completed, and what assurance is there that the new caps are pedagogically sound?
* (Waters) Some of the raised caps were mistakes; some resulted from combining limits for cross-listed sections.
* (Ferguson) How are the upper limits determined?
* (Walsh) We are responsible for reporting enrollment metrics to Board in January. Upper limit enrollments in Upper Division courses need to be justified to board. Lower division enrollments are targeted at 30-35 students per section. We recommend using wait lists to justify additional sections. Further discussion is needed.
* (Harvey) Will classes with structural limits on size be penalized for low enrollments? (Walsh) We are aware of the problem.
* (Slattery) Are there ways to stretch capacity in computer-intensive classes (Ettlich) We are working with Brad Crist on that.

4:20 ASSOU Report (Uyehara)

* Please remind students about self-care during quiet week – Keep warm, hydrate, eat and sleep.
* State government has been announced and students will publish their response in January.
* Enjoy your break, and take care of yourselves!

4:25 HECC Update and the Textbook Affordability Task Force – Lee Ayers

* HECC has sponsored four textbook affordability meetings statewide
* Nearly 9,000 students (mostly from Multnomah County) responded to the survey; results are being compiled
* Results will be discussed at a statewide conference the 2d week of January.
* At SOU, book loan services are under-utilized
* (Feist) We should try for longer-term adoptions, and stockpile texts to maximize value for students.

4:30 Advisory Council Report: Lively discussions

4:33 Constitution committee: Professor of Practice Rank

Open questions regarding establishment of Professor of Practice ranks for SOU:

* Should we have a single Professor of Practice Rank?
* Should we have multiple Professor of Practice Ranks?
* Should we follow “best practice” as established at Uof O and OSU?
* Note: the position sets experience minima and reputation requirements and requires departmental justification
* How should SOU qualify Professors of Practice?
* What do OARs say?

Discussion☹Fergusson, Slattery, Stonelake, Purslow, Feist, Waters, Russell-Miller, Ormes, Carter Nordquist Ettlich, Lane, Shrewsbury and Walsh)

* This requires a new and different job description; is it a back-door way to allow substitution of non-tenured for tenured personnel?
* Purpose is to retain the best possible person for a specific position
* How does it compare and contrast to the Professional Ranks we already have?
* Lines up with Professional ranks, but the title is a significant difference: “Professor” vs. “instructor;” would be eligible for sabbatical and is expected to work with local communities in lieu of scholarship
* Would this devalue professional track PhDs?
* Would the pay scale exceed that of multi-year instructors at lower rank?
* % of Faculty is a key indicator of faculty quality; would we be hurting our competitiveness?
* Multiple ranks are a possibility, although the University of Oregon has only a single rank for Professors of Practice
* The rank would be applied only to new positions.
* Professors of Practice would have three-year contracts
* “Scholarship” is already defines at SOU to include “meaningful community involvement”
* Professor of Practice was in fact moved and approved by the Senate on 6/2/14; the Constitution Committee has already been charged with writing the by-laws; position is defined in principle.
* (Nordquist) The Constitution Committee needs suggestions as to what to put into the Bylaws to set standards for establishing such positions; How and Why do we do such hires?
* (Ettlich) Ask programs what utility such positions might have for them?
* (D. Lane) Some Professional track teachers in Business want Professor of Practice rank.
* (Fergusson) What language do we take to the departments?
* (Nordquist) How do we quality when you hire and what kind of scholarship should be required of Professors of Practice?
* (Rosenberg) How about the departments being left the discretion to define each position?
* (D. Lane) Will there be a mechanism for Professional Track personnel to move to Professor of Practice track?
* (Stonelake) This is addressed in section 5.132 C1 on the first page of Dr. Nordquist’s handout.
* (Carter) You can also check the minutes and video of the last three meetings (May and June) from last academic year; wouldn’t we have a more focused discussion if we reviewed first?
* (Feist) Note C1 ”except where otherwise noted.”
* (Purslow) We are converting from a 2-class system to a 3-class system where the third class does not have tenure. This implies different expectations regarding academic freedom. See AAUP.org.
* (Rosenberg) Let’s not try to prepare for all possible cases, but rather try for systemic flexibility
* (Shrewsbury) Let’s all review this for next meeting
* (Walsh) Let’s disseminate the information to the programs and ask for their input.

**Action Items**

5:11 Carpenter II Grants: Approval moved (Carter) and seconded (Ormes) passed unanimously with 2 abstentions (Ormes and Ferguson)

ANNOUNCEMENT (Waters) There is still a vacancy on the Curriculum Committee. Please encourage your colleagues to serve.

5:13 Adjourned