Faculty Senate Minutes

Meeting February

Copen Hall – Faculty Lounge

8:15 AM

Meeting called to order: 8:42am by LaShawna Powers

Members present: LaShawna Powers, Roger Ward, Mitzi Miller, Tatiana Taylor, Jessica Robinson, Alisen Anderson

Members Absent: Lori Hackwell, Ashlee Jackson, Adam Compton

Old Business:

* Campus Closure policy – this will fold inclement weather into all other reasons for campus closure into a single policy. The first day of campus closure in a semester will be a no-instruction day; all subsequent closures in the same semester will pivot to remote instruction. Amendments to the policy include moving the notification time to 5AM and noting that remote instruction may include Zoom, videos, and other methods of instruction based on a faculty member’s preference and access to technology.
  + Tatiana moved to accept the policy with amendments
  + Alisen seconded the motion
  + Motion passed
* Administration Advisory Committee update – fee restructure was approved by the Board; the next step is improving communication with students re: business office and financial aid deadlines and policies. Large numbers of students were not retained from Fall to Spring because they have a business office balance.
* Instructors dropping students – Dr. Grover supports this. State Regent policy is to allow faculty to drop students for attendance, discipline, or financial issues. Returning this ability to instructors should improve success rates particularly in developmental classes.
  + Mitzi moved to recommend this to administration
  + Alisen seconded the motion
  + Motion passed
* Weeklong Thanksgiving – Closing campus M-F during the week of Thanksgiving, while retaining the traditional fall break, will increase staff compensation by adding two administrative days. Faculty have also expressed that many students do not attending at all during Thanksgiving week.
  + Alisen moved to recommend this to administration
  + Tatiana seconded the motion
  + Motion passed
* Football interference with academics, pt 3 – coaches pulling an engineering student out of 3 classes over 2 days for football meetings, after STEM moved classes to accommodate football. Dr. Stafford will be notified.

New Business:

* Communication in inclement weather – delayed start time on 1/25 led to confusion over whether 8AM classes were cancelled, or whether all classes were being pushed back an hour. LaShawna and Roger will discuss this with Amy.
* Online students need dedicated tutors – recommendation will be sent to Senators and voted on at the next meeting.
* Faculty overload pay – full-time NEO faculty earn less per overload class than retired faculty and adjunct faculty. The Senate will write a recommendation to increase overload base pay and scale the pay for faculty who teach overload.
* Grade appeal policy revision – recommendation by Dustin to
  + Reduce the number of students on the appeal committee to two, and reduce their commitment to one year
  + Eliminate the post-appeal meeting with the Committee Chair
  + Eliminate participation by the student’s advisor

The Senate will review the proposed changes and vote at the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:11am.