Faculty Affairs Committee

Minutes

Friday, March 13, 2015
Room 225, SUB
1:00 PM

I. Call to Order – 1:01 – meeting attended by Jane Finan, Jennifer Cromer, Amanda Van Lanen, Cara Thompson, Jenny Scott, David Massaro, Clair Davis, Travis Osburn, Alex Bezzerides (guest)

II. Consent Agenda – motion to approve minutes by Amanda, 2\textsuperscript{nd} by Jenny, approved unanimously

III. Chair’s Report – Jane met with the Provost last week to establish the amount of funds available to the committee in this funding cycle. The question also came up about how to define the academic year since faculty can only be funded once per each academic year. It was decided that what works best is to start the academic year with the first day that faculty are on contract in the fall semester.

IV. Guest Reports - none

V. New Business

a. Proposed changes to faculty policies 2.111 and 2.106.
   i. The proposed change to policy 2.111 is to change the language for tenure criteria to be more flexible so that it can be more broadly applied. The motivation here is born of the recent approval of allowing instructors the option of becoming tenure-track. The most recent version of the policy required proficiency in both teaching and advising/mentoring, as well as proficiency in one of the other two areas (professional development or service). The problem with that language is that not all instructors will have advising/mentoring as a significant component of their job. Thus, it has been proposed to change the language to require proficiency in teaching and two of the other three categories. The motion to approve the change was made by David Massaro, seconded by Cara Thompson and approved unanimously
   ii. A paragraph defining excellence was proposed to be added to faculty policy 2.106 (faculty promotion). The most recent changes added definitions of competence and proficiency, which are terms that are used widely throughout both policy 2.106 and 2.111. The term excellence is used in the specific case of promotion from Association to Full Professor. The motion to add the language defining excellence to policy 2.106 was made by Cara Thompson, seconded by Jenny Scott, and approved unanimously.

b. Faculty development grants
   i. First point of discussion was to remove applications from individuals that already received a faculty development grant this academic year. The committee will look for ways to better communicate to the faculty that they can only be awarded one faculty development grant per academic year.
   ii. The faculty development grant applications were discussed and ranked and the available amount of funding was distributed.
   iii. There was a brief discussion about future changes to the form. Grant applicants seem to struggle a bit with about how to handle the budget section of their application.
   iv. The committee decided to make a formal request to the Provost to increase the appropriated levels of sabbatical and faculty development funding.

VI. Old Business – none
VII. Adjournment – 2:08 - Motion to adjourn by Cara Thompson, 2nd by Amanda Van Lanen, approved unanimously

Next meeting TBD