Faculty Senate Council
January 27, 2015 @ 11:00 a.m.
Minutes

Present:  Don Ulin, Matt Kropf, Kim Bailey, Steve Hardin, Yara Elbeshbishi, Marietta Frank, Kira Leck, David Merwine and John Slimick

Items of Business:

Approval of Minutes:  A motion to approve minutes from the January 13, 2015 Faculty Senate Council meeting was made by John Slimick.  David Merwine seconded the motion.  The minutes passed.

Next Faculty Senate Council Meeting:  February 10, 2015 in the Academic Dean’s Conference Room at 11:00 a.m.

Next Full Faculty Senate Meeting:  January 29, 2015 in the University Room at 11:30 a.m.

President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, Scholarship, and Service:  Nominees for the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, Scholarship, and Service have been received.  Please see Julie Dykstra to review the files before the next council meeting.  Be prepared to discuss comments and recommendations for nominees along with questions about the process for next year.

Faculty Elections:  Elections for the Faculty Senate will happen soon.  The process for elections will be reviewed at the next full Faculty Senate Meeting.

Report from University Senate:  A university ad-hoc committee has been appointed to look into non-tenure-stream policies.  Now that the university has accepted the concept of long-term non-tenure positions, the university wants a long-term policy to address the issue.  Input is being sought from the Faculty at:  http://univsenate.pitt.edu.  Every unit of the university will be required to prepare their version of the tenure process and compare to the non-tenure stream process.  Pitt-Bradford has already addressed non-tenure faculty in the Tenure Document by taking a heavy emphasis off of publishing.  It was pointed out that non-tenure Emeritus Faculty status still needs to be addressed at Pitt-Bradford.

The university Student Government Association brought forward a request to have expanded course descriptions available to students at registration including copies of the syllabi posted online, number of tests, papers and OMET scores.  The request for OMET scores was shut down by the faculty assembly immediately, but a proposed sample template was suggested (and not well received) as an option for adding more course detail.  The majority felt that students should have access to required text books and a few other details, but feared that too many course details might prompt students
to pick the courses with the fewest requirements. The sample course template is available at: http://univsenate.pitt.edu/

Legislators are also discussing the issue of compensation for college student athletes. See: http://www.utimes.pitt.edu/?p=33814 for more explicit details on all University Senate issues.

**Agenda for Full Faculty Senate Meeting:** Agenda items were discussed for the next full Faculty Senate meeting on Thursday.

**P & R Recommendation (Tenure Document):** The Promotion and Renewal Committee voted to not include the response rate of OMET evaluations in the annual self-evaluation piece of the Tenure Document.

**Student Affairs/Health & Safety Committee (Tobacco Policy Progress):** At the last Student Affairs Committee there was discussion of prohibiting the use of tobacco in the athletic building and communal buildings.

Student affairs also brought forth a recommendation to add recycle bins to each classroom.

**Academic Affairs Update:**

**Searches:** The searches for 10 faculty positions and 1 staff position (Lab technician) continue. Most search committees have narrowed to the point of conducting interviews, however, three positions have already made recommendations and negotiations are started with Oakland. Hardin hopes to get offers out soon as some candidates have already accepted positions at other universities.

A motion to adjourn was made by John Slimick. David Merwine seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.