Faculty Senate Council
January 13, 2015 @ 11:00 a.m.
Minutes

Present: Don Ulin, Matt Kropf, Kim Bailey, Steve Hardin, Yara Elbeshbishi, Marietta Frank, Ernie Kallenbach, Kira Leck, David Merwine, and Tim Ziaukas

Items of Business:

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve minutes from the November 11, 2014 Faculty Senate Council meeting, as amended, and the December 9, 2014 Faculty Senate Council meeting was made by Tim Ziaukas. Matt Kropf seconded the motion. The minutes passed with one change.

Next Faculty Senate Council Meeting: January 27, 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.

List of Faculty Senate Priorities: Matthew Kropf attended the meeting in Pittsburgh where Faculty Members had a chance to voice strengths, opportunities, threats and weaknesses in response to the environmental scan Youtube videos that were sent out by the Chancellor. Council members were thankful that Kropf attended because some of the mentioned SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) items were perceived very differently from a regional perspective.

For example, Pittsburgh faculty identified video learning as a threat because they believe online learning had the potential to reduce learning and education; however, Matt voiced it as an opportunity for Bradford because it enhanced learning and the new generation of learners valued this type of learning.

Pittsburgh faculty valued the core Liberal Arts education, but Matt pointed out that STEM was not currently a part of a liberal arts education with only one math course required. He pointed out that redefining the Liberal Arts education to include STEM course could be an opportunity.

Pittsburgh voiced technology as being a threat because of some happenings during finals week. Kropf defended technology, stating that it gave regionals more opportunities—“Imagine what it would be like if Oakland offered some of their more specialized courses to the regionals?” He states that technology only becomes a threat when an organization is left behind.

Pittsburgh faculty also believed that the university should be marketed as a top ten research university, but Matt questioned how this was beneficial to the regionals with mostly undergraduates, who probably didn’t care about this status.

Other points from this conversation:
- Is there becoming more of a regionals-Oakland divide?
- Does it come down to data? Data seems to be the critical factor for navigating these opportunities.
• Do we need to know where students are now and what field they studied in? Is it ethical to obtain this type of information?

Ulin suggested the continuance of this talk at the Bradford Faculty Senate meeting. The videos can be distributed before the meeting and faculty can break into groups to discuss for SWOT.

**Academic Affairs Update:**

**Background Checks:** Everyone will need to have a background check done at some point. For the three checks it costs $47.50 and checks need to be completed every three years. Laurel Phillips will be the central person to manage all the background checks. Currently implementation is broken into three tiers.

**Implementation plan:**
- **First Tier:** All new employees and new student employees will need to have a background check before employment. Oakland will currently pay for student background checks. Adjunct faculty have to pay for the background checks themselves.
- **Second Tier:** Employees within disciplines that currently require clearances, including nursing faculty, education counselors.
- **Third Tier:** Remainder of employees.

There was strong resistance to the university not hiring a third party to do the background checks. Some felt that this left the university open to severe liability issues. **It was asked if a comment could be sent to the University Senate on this issue.**

A motion to adjourn was made by Tim Ziaukas. Kim Bailey seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.