Faculty Senate Council Meeting
January 22, 2013 at 11:30 am.

MINUTES


Items of Business:

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve minutes from the January 8, 2013 Faculty Senate Council meeting was made by David Merwine and seconded by ‘Biodun Ogundayo. The minutes passed unanimously.

Next Faculty Senate Council Meeting: February 12, 2013 in the Academic Dean’s Conference Room at 11:30 a.m.

Next Full Faculty Senate Meeting: January 29, 2013 in University Room at 11:30 a.m.

Mandatory Final Exams: Although final exams are supposed to be mandatory, students are voicing that not all professors hold a final exam, and some students made early exit plans. Hardin clarified that Pitt-Bradford is on a 15-week schedule as opposed to a regular 16-week schedule; therefore, the final exam week serves as the 16th week. He states that even if a final examination is not in order, there should be mandatory class time. This issue will be clarified at the next Full Faculty Senate Meeting. Tillman added that professors need to be upfront about final exam week so students are clear on the requirements.

50th Anniversary Faculty Component: Faculty have been tasked to implement an academic component to the 50th Anniversary Year Celebration. At the last meeting, senate council division representatives were charged to solicit ideas from his/her division. A program specific idea was brought forth from Physical & Computational Sciences. As more ideas were brainstormed, a new angle arose to have each division present a program. Council representatives will present to divisions for feedback.

Classroom Issues Raised at full Faculty Senate Meeting: Concerns still remain about the quality of instruction, student preparation and other classroom issues. Melka questioned if a 3-5 year plan needed to be implemented. Steve Robar intervened and stated that he had emailed dates for the first set of brown bag luncheons/discussions (see below). Robar is hoping these discussions will focus on classroom issues and pedagogy, but will be an open agenda.

Tenure Document-Non-Tenure Stream Changes: Changes will be presented at the full Faculty Senate Meeting.

Academic Update:

Faculty Searches: The searches are still in process. The Speech/Communications position has started to schedule on-campus interviews. There is concern about the Hospitality Management position as it has a small pool of candidates.
Brown-Bag Discussions: Stephen Robar, Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs, has emailed dates for upcoming faculty discussions. Hardin encourages colleagues to attend these sessions and discuss classroom issues.

Student Appeal Process: Hardin identified a document from 2005, Guidelines for Academic Integrity which talks about academic integrity from a student perspective and from faculty obligations. The document lists 12 faculty obligations and the students’ rights to talk to the faculty member or bring the issue forward to the Dean. Hardin will continue to follow the Pitt-Bradford Academic Integrity Procedure and refer students back to faculty members and/or the faculty member’s chair; however, if the student chooses not to speak with the faculty member or chair, the Dean has the right to listen to the complaint, especially in cases of harassment, or other equal opportunity issues.

Assessment Recognition: Pitt-Bradford was one of three participants asked to make a presentation at the First Annual Conference of Assessment at Oakland. Robar lead the presentation about Pitt-Bradford’s General Education Curriculum with Hardin on hand to assist with questions. Oakland really liked the fact that Bradford was assessing and then making changes.

Matters Arising:

Princeton Review for Best Value for Colleges 2012: Pitt-Bradford was nationally recognized by the Princeton Review as #8 for the “Best Value College” for 2012.

The draw of UPB almost certainly isn’t the nightlife — tiny Bradford, Penn. claims just 8,700 residents. Students come for its reputation as a place they can get the quality of the Pittsburgh flagship without getting lost among nearly 30,000 other students. The Princeton Review has named Pitt-Bradford a “Best Value College” for 2012, in no small part thanks to the intimate nature of the school. Professors are considered students’ friends, going above and beyond to facilitate learning by extending office hours, giving out their private cell phone numbers, and more.

Article in University Times: Melka distributed an article from the December 6, 2012 edition of the University Times (page 6) titled Survey finds all units have procedure in place for appealing salary decisions. There was initial discussion about whether or not Pitt-Bradford has a procedure in place for salary appeals. Hardin will investigate.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ogundayo; Soriano seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.