

January 11, 2017

Academic Staff Senate Meeting

Present: Emily, Jenice, John, Amy, Janie, Rob, Beth, (Nick, Jon)

Provost

Call to order: 9:03am

December Minutes - (Jenice/Amy) Passes with edits

Provost Report: Next week is Opening Week for Spring Semester. Number of events going on. One deals with respectful relationships. Chancellor's staff encourages everyone to attend if at all possible. 8:30-Noon event. HLC session will give information on HLC as well as gather information. Gameshow format for interaction! Making edits for final distribution of the assurance argument. Bringing in featured speaker to discuss assessment. UW-S has done a lot in assessment of student learning, but we still have room to grow. Encouraging Instructional Academic Staff, Faculty especially to attend. We're in a period of calls for accountability in the benefits of education. Common metrics and pre/post assessments can measure and demonstrate growth. Helps us to assess our curriculum. Preliminary results from graduating students look promising as they reflect on how they've improved in writing and critical thinking. Governor is looking to reduce in-state tuition – new information to us, we'll need to see how this will develop. Looks like Spring Enrollments are up compared to last Spring. Graduate programs in Education are beginning to see enrollments. Begin this Spring Semester. *Rob We've made gains in marketing over the years. But it's not had specific connections to increased enrollment. With Marketing and Admissions personnel leaving, have we considered restructuring those two offices? Both positions are important to student recruitment.* Looking to make a replacement quickly. Haven't looked at restructuring anything, but will bring it to the Chancellor's attention. *Jenice There was a shift to include legislative liaison, will that continue?* Position description is working to include that language. Will try to bring in people familiar with the State and our institutions and key players. Most campuses have someone with this familiarity. *Emily The legislative focus has made Enrollment plans seem to disconnect with Marketing plans. Important to keep reporting lines clear to include Marketing's voice to be present in ongoing discussions.*

No Governance Liaisons

System Rep – not much has happened since last meeting

Chair Report – meeting in the next few weeks. haven't met since.

Personnel – Nothing to add – nothing from other campuses. Calls are out for more information from how other campuses assess, especially for Merit.

Professional Development – development grants – one was given to someone who's taken a different position. There's a request for the funds to be given to a new hire to go in that person's place to the same conference. Janie – outcome seems the same, would be good to promote. Rob – a question of process and situational responses. Would be good to work on our processes. Have clarified our policy; could do more. Calls will be going out around March for the next round – will try to revise policies in

advance. Historically, Chair has not served on a subcommittee? Yes, mainly as convener. Would be good for someone to take more of a lead on the subcommittee.

Communications & Elections – working on content for newsletter and working on a social. Discussed last year's event which was not very well attended. Want to advertise in newsletter and beyond. Discussed venues in the area that have done well. Suggested possibility of opening event up to other groups. New person in Alumni Relations wonders if Superior Connections events do the same work, especially if we're open to all groups. Go on our own? Work on Superior Connections Events? Amy- just a few left. Emily – even with small numbers, has merit. Don't want to relinquish. Would like to continue offering this to our constituency. Benefit especially if we get people not connected to Senate to come. Opening up could break some of the divisions on campus. Agreed to try to retain this event. Newsletter – timing of content is tricky. Would be nice to have a format to plug in. Not much value in newsletter just to have a newsletter. Even using it to make people aware of who we are and what we're working on for them. Other Governance communicates mainly through Departments. We're very dispersed. Do we want to do a website audit? If granted the funds – when and where? February. VIP. Wednesday 15th, 22nd? Will look at possibilities.

Old Business: Strategic Planning Core Team Integrated Budget Planning Process. Will be working with requests over the next few months. Has been a late process previously, trying to get ahead of the game, but may need to discuss this process soon. If you have thoughts, email Emily to bring to the Team. Rob- programs are filling out forms by a deadline and then it's approved or not. Most people do not know and do not see the criteria for the decisions of how the allocation happens. Strategic Planning Core Team was asking about Chancellor's process. Did not get a specific documented process. More of a review process and open dialogue of priorities once it comes to the Chancellor's Staff – but often one-time fixes for prioritized funding. Rob – some aspect of enrollment and graduation rates should play a roll in distribution. We've been working on a base +/-, but more difficult to distribute funds where they're needed. New position requests are looked closely by Provost Jackie for enrollment and graduation rates, etc. We seem hesitant to create a process/standard because it will change the status quo and people/programs will need to adapt. Changes have been made in the last few years from feedback.

Academic Staff Promotion Application Deadlines. The call has just gone out. Last year the call went out in November for people to gather materials and prepare 2 months prior. This late announcement could exclude individuals. Has discussed with HR. Personnel Committee could make an extension from the first Friday in February. Grant additional month while gathering/reviewing materials as they come in? Could Personnel Committee handle that compressed load? Will try to review materials as received in a rolling review. HR & Personnel Committee need to work to have more consistent lines of communication so that HR will receive and review the right materials at the right time and we will hopefully be better able to track notices. Setting up a meeting with HR Director to address ways to work better together so that our constituents are not negatively affected.

Adjourn (Jon/Nick)