

Radford University Faculty Senate Campus Environment Committee Continuation Report – Summer 2011

The RU Faculty Senate Campus Environment Committee was tasked with nine charges for the 2010-2011 academic year. The committee made some progress toward addressing all charges.

1. Conduct the Faculty Morale Survey similar to the one conducted in Spring 2010.
 - a. Numerical reports should be reported in a table such as the one constructed last year, comparing the results of the 2011 survey with the 2010 survey.
 - b. Written comments should be summarized in a manner similar to last year's report.
 - c. When all of the above are completed, the report should be submitted to the FSEC.

A motion was made in the Senate to alter the survey introduction and the data reporting for the Faculty Morale Survey, following from feedback obtained from the Attorney General's office. The motion passed, and part of what the motion included was to provide the CEC, FSEC, Board of Visitors, and President with all unedited written comments. The Board of Visitors and President may, in turn, pass on portions of those comments to individual administrators on a need-to-know basis.

The Faculty Morale Survey was administered, and results were reported in accordance with the passed motion.

2. Review and make recommendations concerning the Faculty Survey instrument or methodology.

Minor edits were made to the Faculty Morale Survey, and a revised instrument was passed as a Faculty Senate motion. See #1 above for a description of edits made to the Faculty Morale survey methodology.

3. Liase with the Sustainability Steering Committee to report on campus sustainability efforts and accomplishments.

The CEC invited the Sustainability Steering Committee to report to the Faculty Senate. On January 20, Julio Stephens presented on sustainability efforts on campus, and Dennis Grady was also in attendance. The CEC did not have any questions or concerns following from this presentation.

4. Liase with the Vice-Provost for Enrollment Management to provide a report to the Faculty Senate regarding current admission standards, student profiles, and recruiting strategies.

The CEC invited the Vice Provost for Enrollment Planning and Management, Steven Nape, to provide a report to the Faculty Senate to address these topics. Dr. Nape presented to the Senate at the October 21 meeting. The CEC did not have any questions or concerns following from this presentation. The Provost provided an exciting new report regarding enrollments on April 14.

5. Liaise with the Childcare Task Force to formulate a recommendation to the full Senate for a means to provide childcare for Radford University faculty and staff.

The CEC contacted the Childcare Task Force in the fall. The Task Force was just being formed and beginning its work, and indicated they would report to the Senate once they had formulated a recommendation. We recommend that next year's committee follow up on the progress of this task.

6. Conduct a study regarding the availability of parking for Radford University and staff and formulate a recommendation to bring before the full senate for a means to improve the parking situation.

The CEC requested that Richard Alvarez or his designee present to the Faculty Senate on the campus master plan, with a data driven presentation regarding options that have been considered for parking as new buildings are constructed. The FSEC passed along the request for information about parking to President Kyle, who included a brief summary of parking plans to the Senate in her presentation on November 4. The CEC followed up with the FSEC to indicate we would still like to hear a data-driven presentation by Richard Alvarez, but since this would not fit into the busy Senate agenda for this spring, we strongly encourage next year's CEC to follow up with this request. In particular, here was a request we sent to Kay Jordan on January 25, 2011, but there was insufficient time to address it at spring Senate meetings:

"We would like to recommend that the FSEC invite Richard Alvarez to discuss the Campus Master Plan as well as future plans for parking at RU. Specifically, we would be interested in a data-driven presentation describing cost estimates for options that have previously been or are currently being considered--including past references to a parking garage. Any considerations regarding public/private partnerships for parking plans would be helpful to learn about as well."

7. Review university policies and rules regarding skateboards, bicycles, and other means of personal transportation on campus and bring a recommendation to the full senate, if these rules should be changed to make the campus safer for pedestrians.

A member of the CEC contacted Scott Shaffer from the RU Police Department, who then contacted the Campus Safety Office to determine if there have been skateboard/cycling incidences reported on campus. We were told there were no reported incidences in 2009 and two in 2010 (one involving a skateboarder colliding with a housekeeper causing 'minor injuries' and one involving a skateboard flying out from under a student and breaking a window). The CEC was also told by a member of the FSEC that one student in 2010 fell off his skateboard and broke his collarbone. The CEC introduced a motion at a spring Senate meeting regarding skateboard safety on campus. The motion did not pass.

8. Working with Human Resources, the Disability Resources Office, the Diversity Equity Action Committee and other campus groups as appropriate, review and report on accessibility and provision of resources to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities.

A member of the CEC contacted Adrien BeLoach, Director of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion and a member of the Diversity and Equity Action Committee to see whether there are issues we should be aware of regarding multicultural awareness, understanding, and a sense of

belonging for students, faculty and staff at RU. We learned there had been an increasing number of complaints regarding various cultural/spiritual expressions during the holiday season, and the office wanted everyone to know that as long as students, administrators, or organizations follow university policies and procedures, then they are free to put up displays or execute methods of expression in appropriate areas on campus. The office also encouraged faculty to try to help mirror a sense of inclusion with a cultural sensitivity and the best efforts to not offend, isolate, nor exclude those who do not share in similar beliefs. In December, the Center indicated they would construct a position description for Chief Social Equity Officer that reports directly to the university president and hoped to hire soon. The position has not yet been approved and no details have yet been released.

9. Liaise with Human Resources, the Center for Diversity and Inclusiveness, the Vice-Provost for Enrollment Management, the Diversity Equity Action Committee and other appropriate campus offices, committees, and organizations to ensure that Radford University affirms diversity in its hiring and student recruitment and provides a social environment that meets the needs of community members from culturally diverse backgrounds.

A member of the CEC contacted Joey Sword regarding employee benefits at RU, in particular regarding domestic partnerships. Joey responded to indicate that employee benefits at RU are determined by the Commonwealth of Virginia, and they currently don't provide coverage for domestic partners. The RU Human Resources Office suggested provided the website with more information concerning benefits and eligibility: <http://www.dhrm.virginia.gov/hbenefits/employeestoc.html> and suggested that we communicate interests regarding benefits to our elected state representatives at the General Assembly to facilitate change.

NEW Items:

1. Topic introduced with 2010-2011 CEC:

Here was a request submitted to Kay Jordan on February 10, 2011.

"The CEC would also like to request a presentation related to Foundations. For example, we would like to learn the organizational structure, key personnel, gifts received, trends in amounts/kinds of gifts received, dollars raised by the annual fund, etc. Again, we think such a presentation would be of broad interest to all Senators and their constituents."

There was insufficient time to address this request at spring Senate meetings.

2. Question from a colleague: Is campus water drinkable?
3. Suggestion from a colleague: Consider the development of guidelines and/or policies regarding the placement and treatment of outdoor art across the campus. (Particularly important with all the construction taking place)