

Faculty Issues committee, Sept 22 2011

Present: all but K Ayers, C B-Small, and M LaLone

Visitors: Professors Weinzapfel and King on behalf of the QEP writing team

Dr. Gainer, the appointed convener for the meeting, called the meeting to order at 3:30. The first order of business was election of the chair – Dr. Gainer was nominated and accepted. The recorder was then chosen – Dr. Barris agreed to do this.

The two guests from the QEP writing team explained that they were seeking feedback, input, questions, etc., regarding the presentation made to the Faculty Senate on Sept 15. It was noted by FIC members that many faculty remain unclear as to the process underlying the selection of the QEP, how it is going to be carried out, what demands or expectations are being placed on faculty, what types of activities can be seen as model Scholar-Citizen goals, and other questions of this sort. There were also questions posed about timelines and approval paths and the role of the Senate with respect to any approval process. Suggestions were made for an emailed newsletter which might answer some of these questions and keep faculty updated on developments and for the QEP team to contact department chairs emphasizing their availability to meet with faculty rather than waiting for invitations. The discussion ended at 4:10 and the guests departed, reiterating their desire for input from faculty.

We then turned to new business on the agenda. Dr. Gainer proposed an approach to working on the objectives through subcommittees which would then bring their recommendations to the whole committee, rather than trying to do everything as a committee of the whole. This suggestion seemed agreeable to everyone present. Discussion began with respect to the objectives and a preliminary time frame and formation of subcommittees. Following discussion of the first objective, and some clarification as to what is meant by “additional faculty salary funds” (in particular, it was noted that this refers to more than merit increases), the committee voted on a motion to make this objective the immediate priority and to address it as a whole committee. A second motion was made and passed to authorize Dr. Gainer to invite Debra Templeton to come to a meeting to speak about faculty salaries, how they are set, and other relevant issues that bear on any recommendations for objective 1.

Next there was discussion on objectives 2 and 3 and 5. It was noted that some work had previously been done by an earlier FI committee on objectives 3 and 5. A motion was made to address objectives 2 and 3 together (it was passed) and with a subcommittee. It was suggested that objective 6 might fall within the purview of this committee but no motion was made to include this objective. The subcommittee was formed of three volunteers: Dr. Chase, Dr. Hazleton and Dr. Barris. With respect to objective 5, the suggestion was made that the director or other representative of Human Resources be asked to meet with the Senate early in the spring semester to address university policies (if any) that currently exist with respect to the issues included in that objective. A motion was made to authorize Dr. Gainer to do this and it was passed. Dr. Sheehy agreed to coordinate work on the preparation of questions for this meeting.

At this point it was 4:45 and members had other appointments. A motion was made and passed to adjourn the meeting.