

Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) Minutes
October 31, 2011

Members Present: Dr. Rick Roth, Dr. Rhett Herman, Dr. Pamela Jackson, Dr. Jerry Kopf, Dr. Joe Chase, Dr. Kay K. Jordan

Members Absent: None.

Guests: Mark Pace (RU BOV member), Dr. Sam Minner.

I. Call to Order

- a. Dr. Roth called the meeting to order at 11:05am.

II. Approval of Minutes

- a. The minutes from the FSEC meeting on October 24, 2011 were approved.

III. Reports and Announcements

- a. The FSEC discussed issues related to the “tuition and fees gap” between RU and the state averages for these numbers. Comments about this topic included:
 - i. Dr. Kopf said that this gap affects recruitment of faculty. RU should also think about how we should position ourselves, determining if we want to be the “WalMart” of schools. The FSEC discussed ways to move RU towards the state averages.
 - ii. Mr. Pace said that the Board of Visitors knew that compression and inversion of salaries was a big problem.
 - iii. Dr. Herman stated that lab fees were a source of revenue in the sciences for equipment enacted in recent years.
 - iv. Dr. Minner asked about any effects on enrollment raising tuition and fees might have on enrollment. He said that right now, the fiscal and political environment do not favor tuition increases above certain levels.
 - v. Dr. Jordan said that she thought the RU Foundation should work more aggressively to raise more scholarship money. As for fees, she thinks that RU should switch to more tuition for costs rather than raising fees, so that there is a better balances between tuition and fees.
 - vi. Dr. Minner told of his former school (Truman State) and their efforts to model the effect that tuition raises would have on enrollment. Truman State hired a company that stated specifically “value for quality” was very important. This company did say that raising tuition would have an adverse effect on enrollments at Truman.
 - vii. The group discussed various mechanisms for fundraising. The group also discussed how to work with the restrictions that the state government puts on fundraising.
- b. The FSEC voted that the number one issue in RU’s funding was to close that gap (RU as compared with the state averages) in tuition in fees.

IV. Old Business

- a. None.

V. New Business

- a. None.

VI. Adjournment

a. The meeting adjourned at 12:15pm.