

2011-2012 Faculty Senate Meeting
December 08, 2011
Heth Hall, Room 014

Members Present: Johnny Moore (substitute for Suzanne E. Ament), Roann Barris, Steven Beach, Candice Benjes-Small, Robert Boross, Timothy L. Channell, Joseph Chase, James E. Collier, Farrell Doss, Mary Ferrari, Jake Fox, Kim Gainer, Vince Hazleton, Rhett B. Herman, Katherine R. Hilden, Lucy Hochstein, Margaret Hrezo, Cathy Hudgins, Pamela A. Jackson, Laura E. Jacobsen, Abhay Kaushik, Mary LaLone, Laura E. LaRue, Kevin LoPresto, Michael B. Moore, Richard A. Roth, Helen Roybark, Basel Saleh, Susan L. Schoppelrey, Bob Sheehy, Neil Sigmon, Lauren Smith, Kenneth Smith, Andrea J. Stanaland, Jonathan L. Tso, Erin L. Webster Garrett, Joseph I. Wirgau

Members Absent: E. Kevin Ayers, Maggie Bassett, Julia Castleberry, Lori Elis, Blas Hernandez, Douglas Mitchell, Michael Sinclair, Lynne Taylor, Edward Carter Turner

Guests: Dr. Sam Minner

I. Call to Order: 3:34pm

II. The minutes from the November 17, 2011 Senate meeting were approved as amended.

III. Reports

- a. Provost's Report: Dr. Minner's comments included:
 - i. Facilities Management has the list of builders for the new CSAT building down to 4, and they will make the final determination soon.
 - ii. RU's enrollments so far are strong. Mr. James Pennix is in charge of this for now and the numbers right now are even better than last year's.
 - iii. Our SACS accreditation process is OK. There are around a dozen issues of non-compliance that are not going to be a problem to fix.
 - iv. The search is underway for a new Dean of the College of Health and Human Services (replacing Dr. Raymond Linville).
 - v. A search committee is being formed to find a new Vice Provost for Enrollment, Planning and Management (the position that Mr. Pennix is handling on an interim basis).
 - vi. A search committee is being formed for a new Vice President for Advancement.
 - vii. A salary inversion/compression study has been done and Dr. Minner knows what to do if funds become available to address the results of this study.
 - viii. If there are new funds available to the University as a whole then RU will go with the 6-year plan to direct that new funding.
 - ix. In November members of the RU community received \$1.5 million in grants.
 - x. New College Institute: RU has put in a \$1.3 million proposal based on what the NCI could afford. This money—if the proposal is funded—would come to RU to deliver the program offerings listed in the proposal.
 - xi. He is looking at a possible "wintermester" that might start with a few online classes.
 - xii. He is working on a Chairs' professional development program over the winter break.

- xiii. He is working to bring more speakers and performers to campus.
 - xiv. He is working on an electronic-books task force.
 - xv. He is working to improve the study abroad program.
 - xvi. He is working with the Deans on three First Amendment issues: The limitations on public gathering places on campus, the fact that displays on campus are required to be stamped as approved, and the fact that outside groups must work with student groups to gather on campus.
 - xvii. He is working to strengthen the connection between RU and the nearby Southwest Virginia Governors School of Math, Science and Technology.
- b.

IV. Old Business

- a. Dr. Joe Chase made a motion to remove all Old Business from the table and re-table it. This motion was passed by voice vote.

V. New Business

- a. The Motion regarding involvement of the Faculty Senate in the Continued Evolution of the QEP document was introduced by Dr. Hrezo.
 - i. Dr. Wirgau asked if the members of this committee had been appointed or elected. Dr. Hrezo said they were appointed by the FSEC.
 - ii. The motion was automatically tabled.

VI. Additional Reports:

- a. Dr. Roth reported that he had received several volunteers for various task forces that were initiated by the Academic Affairs Leadership Team, and for which he had put out a call. He said that Dr. Mark Shanley, Vice President for Student Affairs, has been rescheduled from today to a meeting in February. He addressed the QEP and his comments included:
 - i. RU must submit a QEP to SACS—this is not an option.
 - ii. The #1 theme submitted by the Faculty Senate (“Wellness”) was not chosen as the overall theme in the end.
- b. Dr. Kay K. Jordan addressed a number of issues regarding the QEP and her comments included:
 - i. She, Steve Owen and Erin Webster Garrett were on the QEP Steering Committee.
 - ii. The QEP involves things at the University other than the faculty. Students wanted a theme of “Professionalism.” The theme of “Wellness” would be hard to market in that it could imply that students come as “unwell” freshmen but graduate “well.” The theme of Scholar Citizen could encompass wellness within it.
 - iii. She thinks that the Faculty Senate only has “review and comment” authority and are not obliged to recommend anything in this matter. The process has been open and transparent.
- c. Committee Reports:
 - i. Campus Environment—Dr. Laura Jacobsen said that this committee is continuing to assess information they have gathered.

- ii. Curriculum—The CC brought the new motion today and had a short report on the Foreign Language question. Their bottom line is that there should be no University-wide Foreign Language requirement.
- iii. Faculty Issues—Dr. Gainer said that this committee has met with Joey Sword regarding issues with leaves. They have no report yet.
- iv. Governance—None.
- v. Resource Allocation—None.
- d. A QEP Report was delivered by co-chairs Erin Webster Garrett and Tim Filbert. Their comments included:
 - i. Dr. Webster Garrett said that there will be an RFP in 2012 for courses and initiatives. Initiatives could include co-curricular events such as speakers, performances and debates. There are no numerical targets for upper-level courses.
 - ii. Dr. Webster Garrett and Mr. Filbert delivered most of their subsequent remarks via the PowerPoint presentation posted on the Senate website.
 - iii. Dr. Hazleton asked about the cost of the QEP to the University. Dr. Webster Garrett said this was put into the budget and really represents funds the University should already be spending. Such funds include support for faculty to attend meetings, faculty development opportunities, and backfill for faculty taking part in initiatives. Currently this amount is envisioned to be \$1.2-\$1.5 million and this is actually under budget. She has asked Mr. Richard Alvarez to address the Senate regarding this within the overall University budget.

VII. Announcements

- a. None.

VIII. Adjournment: 4:51pm