

FACULTY COUNCIL MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 16, 2011, 3:30 pm

FOUNDATION BOARD ROOM

Present: Carol Norman, Chair, Roger James, Vice-Chair, Kim White, Amy Wake, Donna Johnsey, Rob Wyatt (by proxy), Bob Raines, Andrew Kelley, Mechel Camp.

- I. Carol Norman introduced Bobby Smith, who had asked to come speak to the council about student discipline and student services generally. Bobby wanted to make sure that faculty understands that both Linda Nickell and he fully support faculty authority in the classroom. He said that faculty should feel free to discipline in the classroom in order to create an appropriate adult learning environment. Bobby also said that he does not assume that the student is right when incidences occur; students will have to prove their cases.

Bobby noted that for the fall, his office is going to be very explicit about expectations and encourages faculty to be the same. When an incidence does arise, according to the Student Handbook, the faculty member has the authority to temporarily remove someone from the classroom. If the student won't leave, faculty should call Student Services or the guard. When a student comes to student services, he or she is required to put the complaint in writing. Bobby encouraged faculty to set up a time outside of the classroom to talk with the student about disruptive behavior. Unless it's severe, a one-time incident won't require expulsion from class. However, if the behavior is repeated, there is a procedure on page 159 of the handbook. Student Services will be very diligent to document everything to make sure the process is followed so that, at a later point, no problems will result. Any time there's an issue, even if it's resolved quickly, faculty are encouraged to send an email to Linda Nickell so that she can build a file. Bobby concluded his comments by noting that we want to help students but disruptive behavior isn't acceptable. He added that coming here is a privilege, not a right, and students must behave accordingly.

The Council offered its thanks to Bobby for coming and expressing his support for this faculty issue.

- II. Carol Norman reported on the Constitution. She had a meeting with Dr. Blanding about the Constitution, but Dr. Blanding did not agree with the requests presented by the Council and no changes resulted.
- III. A number of faculty commented on the decision to change back to the old schedule. The council expressed its concerns and disappointment about the lack of student input in decision-making.

- IV. Carol Norman reported on the faculty evaluation meeting held on Monday, March 14, attended by Dr. Key, Carol Norman, Roger James, Barry Jennison, Diana Fordham, and Mechel Camp. She explained that additions were to be made to the existing narrative document by the deans so that evaluations could include classroom data such as grade distribution and retention information. The evaluations are intended to explore faculty standing as it relates to colleagues in the same discipline and course in order to facilitate discussion and set goals. It is not intended to be punitive in nature. Carol, Roger, and Mechel agreed that the tone of the meeting was positive. Members of the council expressed some discomfort over how data might be used in future.
- V. The council discussed the upcoming elections for next year's council. The elections are supposed to be held in March of each year. **In spite of the concerns expressed previously about changes made to the Faculty Council constitution, the Faculty Council will proceed with elections for the 2011/12 academic year.**
- VI. Carol Norman adjourned the meeting at 5:25 pm.

Submitted by Mechel Camp, in the absence of the secretary.

Approved by Carol Norman, chair.

Respectfully revised & resubmitted by Powell Franklin, secretary.