Minutes
GSU University Senate, Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting
26 April 2012 | 3:00 p.m. | 718 GCB

Members Present

Peggy Albers
David Cheshier
Andrew I. Cohen
Cheryl Delk-LeGood
Irene Duhaime
Laura Fredrick
MaryAnne Gaunt
Maria Gindhart
Lynda Goodfellow
Hugh Hudson
Jennifer Jones
Nancy Kropf
Peter Lindsay
Peter Lyons
Layli Maparyan
Joe Perry
Dan Weiskopf
Marta White
Russel White

Members Absent

Cathy Brack
Annette Butler
Conrad Ciccotello
Harry Dangel
Valerie Fennell
Shelby Frost
Gerald Gay
Mark Geil
Frances McCarty
Linda Nelson
Risa Palm
Jerry Rackliffe
Wayne Reed
Roy Sobelson
Cherian Thachenkary

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM by the committee chair, David Cheshier. Minutes from the March 8, 2012 meeting were approved.

David Cheshier was elected to chair the committee in the 2012-2013 academic year.

The committee had been asked to elect a representative to the University Promotion and Tenure Committee (this is the committee created by the new University P&T manual that brings together representatives from each college to compare notes on best P&T practices, as distinguished from the coming committee that will provide faculty input on P&T cases to the Provost, which will be selected closer to 2013 implementation of the manual). Irene Duhaime agreed to stand for election to this committee and was unanimously elected.

Meeting dates were confirmed for the coming academic year.

The committee was updated on several topics:

- Peter Lyons updated the committee on university efforts to remedy gender salary inequities, and confirmed the strong support for doing so among the university’s senior leadership. Cheshier led a discussion centered on the need to further work on the issues, especially related to two issues: (a) providing the university’s faculty and staff with an ongoing mechanism by which apparent gendered inequities can be reviews, and (b) production of a best practices report that might coordinate university efforts to address what the report consultant identifies as a “sojourn problem” (where women are disproportionately “stalled” at rank of associate professor). Work will be undertaken on both issues in the coming year, working as appropriate with the Senate Budget Committee.

- The committee’s advocacy for changes in the summer payroll schedule helped succeed in producing adjustments that will pay summer faculty who teach on a schedule that assures uninterrupted monthly salary disbursements.

- Cheshier briefed the committee on discussions having occurred in the aftermath of Senate adoption of the new P&T manual, and confirmed the committee’s willingness to monitor implementation of the manual, especially as it relates to the work of the professional colleges.
An ad hoc Senate committee that includes Faculty Affairs Committee membership has been working to propose updates and revisions to the Faculty Handbook. Another committee expects to forward recommendations to FAC in the fall relating to revisions in the policy governing appointments to the graduate faculty.

The committee briefly discussed some issues that might be explored by new subcommittees in the coming academic year. There appeared to be interest in taking up the issue of workplace rights connecting to the appointment of temporary adjunct faculty. A suggestion was made to have the committee examine mechanisms for wider university-wide communication (such as the creation of a FAC blog), and the committee agreed to follow up on the suggestion at its first fall meeting. It was also suggested that the committee resume its practice of receiving annual briefings on HR and Benefits issues, and Cheshier agreed to organize such a briefing in conjunction with the Senate Budget Committee, to take place early in the fall semester.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and accepted by acclamation at 3:30 PM.