ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Minutes
Monday, October 5, 2015 from 3:30 to 5:00 PM
CNS 200

Faculty Members Present: Beth Boquet, David Crawford, Bob Epstein, Shannon Kelley, Jen Klug, Alison Kris, Phil Lane, John McDermott, Rona Preli, Susan Rakowitz (Secretary of the General Faculty), Amalia Rusu (Executive Secretary), Emily Smith, Kraig Steffen, Debra Strauss (Chair), Joan Weiss, Jo Yarrington.

Administrators Present: Lynn Babington, Don Gibson, Bob Hannafin, Meredith Kazer

Student Observer Present: Jason Abate

Regrets: Bruce Berdanier, David Downie

1. Presidential courtesy

Provost Babington addressed the Academic Council, beginning with an admission and retention update:
   • Students (as of 10/1/15)
     o First-years = 966
     o Total Full Time Undergraduates = 3703
     o Total Graduate Credit Hours = 8,441
     o Total Graduate Head Count = 1168
   • First-year to Sophomore Retention = 88.7%

Academic Partnership: This year the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions (GSEAP) welcomes 80 Bassick High School students to campus. Fridays throughout the academic year Bassick High School teachers will hold their regularly scheduled Friday classes in Fairfield University classrooms. The partnership between GSEAP and Bassick High School was formed with the goal of introducing Bridgeport high school students, some of whom may not have plans to attend college, to learning in a college environment.

Fairfield Rising Campaign Launch – Dinner 9/30 well attended despite the challenging weather. University President Jeffrey P. von Arx, S.J., announced transformational gifts during the evening’s ceremony. He announced that in the preliminary, silent phase of the campaign that the University had already raised $115 million of the $160 million goal. The major “pillars” of the campaign include raising the endowment for student aid; supporting faculty teaching and scholarship (endowments) and infrastructure (buildings – Rafferty Stadium, Rec Plex, Nursing & Health Sciences).

   1. Former Fairfield University Trustee William P. Egan ’67 and his wife Jacalyn announced a $10 million gift as the foundational gift serving as the cornerstone of support for a new, integrated nursing and health studies initiative at Fairfield, which has one of the nation’s
most highly ranked nursing schools, as well as a long history of preparing men and women for careers in medicine and scientific research. The University’s nursing school will be renamed the Marion Peckham Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies in honor of Mr. Egan’s mother. Ground breaking for the expanded health sciences facility is expected in the spring.

2. Robin and Joe Kanarek also pledged monies to launch a Center for Palliative Care at the University. This will be an interdisciplinary program to support the education of students.

The Board of Trustees met Thursday and passed the handbook committee on non-tenure track faculty.

Reminder: Study Abroad Faculty Reception – Wednesday 10/7 4:30-6pm Bellarmine. This is an opportunity to meet the new director and staff and learn about new directions for study abroad.

2. Report from the Secretary of the General Faculty

Having just learned of the approval of the new handbook committee, Rakowitz will consult with the Committee on Committees on how to arrange for the election of non-tenure track faculty.

Rakowitz explains that she sent a memo to the SVPAA/Provost regarding Professors of the Practice. There is a variety of language in the Journal of Record and Handbook, including limits on numbers of no more than 10% in each of the schools; this year we are over the limit in 2 schools (SON and GSEAP) and should not be adding anyone; SOE is right at 10%; Some POPs are approaching term limits for first time (2 3-year terms) so we also need to highlight that. Babington says there were a few errors in data and this is one of the areas the new committee needs to look at. Rakowitz replies nevertheless, we have these policies in place and need to adhere to them.

The Presidential Ball was rescheduled for a Thursday night this year due to weather. Some faculty have reported that this rescheduling sent a signal that Friday classes are not that important. Responding to inquiries, VP Pellegrino explained that this year’s event cannot be postponed because of the cost of the tent and equipment but messaging to students will indicate that students still need to meet all their Friday academic obligations. He will also meet with the chair of the Student Life committee so that in future circumstances, they will be consulted in decision-making.

3. Report from the Executive Secretary

a. Correspondence
   Academic Council members can opt out of receiving the paper version of the packets. If interested, please notify Rusu.

b. Oral Reports: Nothing to report
Weiss asks about approval of minutes from the previous meeting; Rusu notes we have no minutes to approve today and adds that there was an unusually short time span between meetings.

4. Council Subcommittee Reports (none expected at this meeting): None

5. Petitions for immediate hearing: None

6. Old Business: none

   Rakowitz moves to re-order the agenda due to 7a representative teaching conflict; Preli seconds; Unanimous in favor

7. New business
   b. Election of members to committee to discuss Post-Tenure Review

Kris notes no one from SOE is listed as option. Is there a late entry? Rakowitz responds that there were no volunteers from SOE by the deadline and reminds the Council that we need 3 from CAS and one from each school; late additions to the ballot are Wook-Sung Yoo (SOE) and Mike Cavanaugh (DSB). We need to decide whether to allow the late additions. Also, election needs to be by majority of Academic Council.

**Lane moves to accept latecomers; Rusu seconds.**

Smith asks whether either of the new additions have had experience on the 3 referenced committees (Rank and Tenure, FSC, FDEC); Rakowitz says that she doesn’t think they have within the last 5 years.

Crawford speaks in favor of the motion. Strauss agrees, noting the short timeframe.

**Unanimous in favor.**

**Smith, Wheeler, and Yoo elected by acclamation**

**Dennin, Keenan, Yarrington, and Scheraga elected on the first ballot**

Rakowitz notes that the official charge uses the language approved by the General Faculty and asks what instructions she should give to the committee: Do we want them to have formal consultation with FSC, R&T, and FDEC? Are there any other instructions we want to give to the committee?

Lane says they have a charge but we should give them a date: On or before the first Monday of next semester. Boquet agrees. Crawford suggests that we could let them know that we think there should be consultation and that they should work collaboratively with whomever they need to. Strauss and Rakowitz suggest a memo plus attached minutes. Klug notes overlap between Academic Council
members and committee membership, so those faculty can convey the sense of the Council. Rakowitz adds that some faculty have requested public hearings and that any proposal will have to come through this body, with discussion of whether it should go to General Faculty. The current merit guidelines did go through General Faculty.

Smith asks about the purpose, especially since the post-tenure review system will presumably not cover anyone who is untenured. Babington agrees it makes no sense and suggests that the group could come back to this body with recommendations. Epstein says there are vagaries in the language. Boquet states that the committee is constrained by the language of the charge to the adjective “post-tenure.” Babington hopes that the discussion could include recommendations for a single system. Klug says the post-tenure review seems separate from the merit process because post-tenure faculty currently are reviewed through the merit system. Discussion ensues regarding the expectations for pre-tenure faculty in relation to merit.

Crawford says that we have a post-tenure review process and the only thing that confounds it is the false promise of some kind of extra money. There is no way to squeeze the long-term arc of an academic career into an annual review. Rusu observes this might not necessarily be an annual review. Boquet hopes that the committee will look at post-tenure review processes at a number of different institutions and also consider how they differ from processes for pre-tenure faculty. She reaffirms the expectation that the committee will adhere to the post-tenure language of the charge. Strauss says that the charge represents the voice of the General Faculty and the history of the Faculty Salary Committee conversations that resulted in this specific language.

Motion: Lane moves that the committee we have just elected be asked to do the work as described in the Memo of Understanding and report back to the Academic Council on the status of their work on or before the first Academic Council meeting of the spring semester; Kris seconds. Unanimous in favor.

Babington offers to call the first meeting.

c. Election of AC Calendar subcommittee (see Ongoing Item 3)

Nominees: Phil Lane and Joan Weiss

Elected by acclamations

The Board of Trustees report is postponed to the November meeting.

Lane moves to adjourn; Rusu seconds. Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Beth Boquet