

INTERCAMPUS FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES

Amherst

September 28, 2011

Present: *Amherst* – W. Richards Adrion, Marilyn Billings, Ernest May, *Boston* – Lynne Tirrell, *Dartmouth* – Paige Gibbs, *Lowell* – Eve Buzawa, Michael Carter, *Worcester* – Leslie Shaw. *Guests* – D. Anthony Butterfield, W. Brian O'Connor, Amilcar Shabazz, Ralph Whitehead

Approval of minutes – The June 8, 2011 minutes were approved as corrected.

Discussion

- At Marilyn Billings' request, it was agreed to defer a discussion on Open Educational Resources until the December IFC meeting.
- Copies of the open meeting law were distributed. All Trustees and search committee members must be oriented in this law.

Campus reports

Amherst

- Chancellor has established a market rate, at the midpoint of peer institutions, for new faculty hires. An anomaly process is in place (funded by out of state student fee retention).
- A "super merit" award has been established to recognize exceptional merit. The award would be given only once to a faculty member. The award would be added to that person's base salary. The Provost makes the award decisions and the award is limited to tenure-track faculty.
- All Ph.D. Programs are being reviewed.
- There is much discussion from governance on the campus profile as the chancellor's search begins.
- Campus construction continues.
- Commonwealth Honors College is in the top 3 in size and outcome metrics.
- Fees are the leading source of operating funds.
- An upper-division integrative experience is being implemented for every student.

Dartmouth

- The Chancellor will be leaving at the end of the academic year. A search committee is now being formed.
- The Provost will step down at the end of this semester.
- In a "welcome back" speech to the faculty, the Chancellor stated that she is making a priority to "establish a constitution for shared governance." This constitution exists but within the faculty contact where the administration does not want it.

Lowell

- Enrollment numbers are up (12,000 undergraduates) as is retention and SAT scores.
- Tenure-track faculty and lecturer hires have increased.
- A department of Communication is proposed for undergraduate and graduate degrees. The expenses will be covered by student fees.
- The Lowell campus is preparing for a Fall 2013 NEASC accreditation review. Faculty governance leadership hopes that cooperation with peer-reviewed assessment initiatives such as NEASC will forestall politically motivated interference with delivery of quality educational programs in the UMass system. Accountability matters, but the University's mission is not identical to that of the Community Colleges or State Universities. The concern is that the distinctions in mission and accountability standards appropriate to the array of public post K-12 educational institutions are insufficiently appreciated by the Board of Higher Education.
- Continuing education enrollment is increasing.

Worcester

- "The Emperor of All Maladies" was this year's summer read book for the first-year students in all the programs. The author, Siddhartha Mukherjee, and Charles Sawyers, MD, Chair of the Human Oncology and Pathogenesis Program at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center spoke at a recent well-attended convocation.
- The Sherman Center will be enclosed by the end of the calendar year. The building will be completely built-out; previously 2 floors were expected to be left vacant and unfinished.
- Excellence 2012 was a budget-cutting exercise. Although there were 60 layoffs, administration maintains that this should have no effect on the core mission. In response, the Faculty Council is investigating the impact on the core mission. The Faculty Council is discussing how to improve the satisfaction and engagement of the clinical faculty.

Boston

- The Dean of Liberal Arts and the Dean of Nursing and Health Sciences have both resigned (perhaps under pressure). The Dean of Liberal Arts is now working on a special project in the Provost's Office, and the Dean of Nursing took another job. The Provost has appointed Interim Deans for both colleges, and will begin searches after certain campus changes are in place, such as the conversion to 4/4 loads for students. Prediction: 2 years.
- Interest remains high in converting from 5/5 to 4/4 courseload for students. After this is implemented, there's a goal of getting the faculty to a 2/2 teaching load. That plan might be voted by the Faculty Council during this academic year. Financial aid is a driver in considering the conversion, and the belief that 4/4 may help rates of retention and graduation in six years.
- Campus was recently ranked as Carnegie Research High, and the goal is to keep pushing for greater research productivity.
- Enrollment is nearing 18,000.

New Business

Leslie Shaw, representing Worcester, asked about the shared governance models on other campuses. At Worcester, the Faculty Council submits resolutions to an executive council of which Deans are members. Lynne Tirrell, representing Boston, replied that administrators attend the Faculty Council meetings. The Chancellor meets one-on-one with the President of the Faculty Union, the UMass BOT representative and the President of Faculty Council. Nothing adopted for implementation by the Faculty Council has ever been vetoed.

At this time, the hour being late, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Gibbs – Secretary