

# Engineering Faculty Council

January, 24 2016

11:00 a.m.

101F Hammond Building (large conference room in Dean's Suite)

## Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of minutes for the meeting of December 13, 2016  
Unanimously approved.
2. Dean's Report (Amr Elnashai)
  - VRP: Lost 8 tenure-system professors, 1 none-tenure track professor and 13 staff due to VRP. In Oct, we asked 6 lines for emergency replacement, and got 4. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> round, we asked 11 more, and got 6.
  - Faculty and department head searches: 40 regular faculty lines and 2 frontier lines searches ongoing. Three department head searches, Computer Science (internal search), Aero and Architecture Engineering (external search). Computer Science: the interim head was hired as the new department head. AE: three candidates have visited the campus and the search committee will meet soon.
  - Climate Study: On-line forms were sent to students, faculty and staff. Two town halls, one for the faculty and one for the staff, on the findings of the climate study. The form assessment gives a number of things we need to work on. Amr asked the same committee to develop a plan of action. Five goals in this plan responding to the climate challenges. Each goal has 5-6 action items. The plan was sent to department heads first, and then sent to directors of offices, and then will be put on the website for everybody to comment on. Heads will meet to set priority of action items.
  - Global program: Global portfolio is growing. 3+1 program: students from overseas stay at their institute for the first three years, come to PSU as senior, but no PSU degree will be offered. PSU credit will be transferred to students' home institute and students will get their bachelor's degree from their home institutes. In the 3+2 program, students will continue in a one-year master program at PSU. Five 3+2 programs have been signed.
  - Buildings: Ground breaking last week for the BME/ChemE building. Working date is Jan 2019. The co-laboratory program is one of the top priorities at the university. By early summer we may have solid commitment for the co-laboratory program from the university.
  - Amr asks EFC to send him important items that need to be addressed before his departure (July 24-31).
3. Updates from Undergraduate Studies Committee (Chris Giebink).  
Nothing to report.

4. Updates from Graduate Studies Committees (Esther Gomez).
  - **Program Proposals:**
    - Approved:
      - PhD Program in Computer Science and Engineering – Changing course requirements for PhD in CSE
  - **Course Proposals:**
    - Approved:
      - EE 551 - Change
      - ME 566 - Add
  - **Graduate Faculty Nominations:**
    - Approved:
      - Stephane Butler Velegol, Category P, Chemical Engineering

Unanimously approved.
5. Updates from Engineering Technology Committee  
No items to report.
6. Updates from Faculty Senate (Doug Wolfe)
  - Next Faculty Senate meeting is Tuesday, January 24, 2017
  - At the senate council meeting the following discussion highlights were discussed by:  
**Nick Jones**, Executive Vice President and Provost:
    - a. Michael Kubit – New VP for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer
    - b. Donald Welch – New Chief Informational Security Officer, Office of Information Security
    - c. Dean of PSU Law School appointed – Hari Osofsky, University of Minnesota
    - d. Several national searches ongoing or soon to be initiated for various positions including:
      - i. College of Engineering Dean
      - ii. College of Earth and Mineral Science Dean
      - iii. Schreyer Honors College Dean
      - iv. University Budget Officer
      - v. A few others
    - e. Strategic plan Implementation. Thematic plans (5) will be held at various locations throughout the state. Will be available on line.  
**Blannie Bowen**, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs:
    - f. PSU Laureate application – Accepting nominations. Please nominate folks.
    - g. Jackie and Maggie – General Education leadership; holding sessions on General Education direction and reform.  
**Madlyn Hanes**, Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses and Executive Chancellor
    - h. PSU Wilkes-Barre Chancellor position filled
    - i. Getting close to filling Dubois campus chancellor position

**Robert Pangborn, Vice President and Dean for Undergraduate Education**

- h. 60,000 applications to date. Both main and branch campuses are doing well.
- i. ~20,000 offers are out. ~7000 to campuses and 12000 to University Park (this is by intention) so we don't have too many students over enrolled at main campus this year.
- j. Declines in international applications.
- k. Discovery grant applications – Do research over the summer. Suitable Faculty Mentor. Call for applications for faculty in the student engagement network.
- l. Raise Me scholarship program is being updated and improved. Looking favorably based on PA schools to encourage underrepresented students.

**Marcus Whitehurst, Vice Provost for Educational Equity**

- m. Discussed various MLK Evening celebrations and events

**Gerry – Consolidation of various Human Resources Business Process Transformation**

- n. Started in August of 2013
- o. Reviewing all HR policy to make sure they are streamlined
- p. Academic Policy – 23 policies will be combined into one. Looking at moving these policies from VP Human Resources to under Vice Provost for Academic Affairs. With the proposed realignment of policies, HR would still continue to administer the policies.
- q. Compliance, Best Practicer. Meeting with leadership regarding communication/roll out of the policy consolidations/review 2
- s. Consolidation of current policies without changes. For example, 13 deal with appointments, so it would be desired to combine them into one comprehensive policy. However, some policies are being reviewed and may be eliminated/changed based on review. There are numerous categories of policies including: Payroll, Research, HR, Academic, Budget, Travel, all sorts of different policies, etc. 9 over 12 contract only applies to academic roles.

**Graduate Council discussion (STEIN)**

- t. Graduate Council –Issues on Master's degree. Discussions regarding MS degrees to be annotated as whether they are by thesis, or class, or capstone system.
- u. Some units believe that the standards of MS degrees are being lowered with some of the new MS degree programs.

• **Significant Discussion regarding the following Forensic Sessions to be held:**

**I. Senate Committee on Student Life, Counseling and Psychological Services for Students**

- Primary discussion revolved around what questions should be proposed for the forensic session. There was concern regarding the budgetary comments/discussion with regards to funding, etc. In short, it appears that even with the additional resources allocated in the past year, CAPS may not be meeting the needs of the student population.
- CAPS is an essential service and program. How is it paid for? How to access the services and how to refer to students.
- Two potential questions that may be proposed:
  1. "Is Penn State offering enough counselors, sessions, creative solutions, and resources to address our student mental health needs?"

2. “How can Penn State Faculty and our Faculty Senate foster a climate that best promotes Student Mental Health and access to support resources on campus?”

- It appears that PSU is struggling to meet the demand.

## **II. Recommendations for standardization fixed term titles across units**

- This is related to previous legislation regarding fixed-term appointments and providing a path for promotion. Previously it was recommended that there be three levels for promotion for fixed term faculty similar to Faculty Ranks of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor.
- Modifications to HR21: Definitions of Academic Ranks. There was originally some Advisory/Consultative Legislation proposed to expand the existing promotion pathway for fixed-term faculty from two ranks to three. While at the time the report suggested allow units to determine titles for those ranges. Inconsistent title frequently lead to such confusion as to what the difference might exist between a lecturer and an instructor, whereas some titles are interchangeable for essentially equivalent position in some units. The report recommended standard titles.
- However, there was significant push back and opposition from many units and Deans regarding the proposed legislation as many were not aware and administration is taking a step back to review. As a result, this was put as a Forensic session to determine whether or not there should be standard university titles or allow units to determine the titles within each unit. The categories were focused on teaching faculty with little to no discussion/input from the research faculty side.
- Deans/Chancellors. They had a strong reaction.

## **III. Abington Resolution**

- They did not want to alter their resolution. There were potential issues with refugee versus sanctuary. Much of this stems from the 2016 presidential election campaign.

7. Other Business.

N/A.