

Faculty Senate Operations Committee Minutes

12 September 2014

Call to Order: 10:02 AM

Members Present: John Zimmermann (Chair, Faculty Senate President), Robert Galin (Faculty Senate Vice-President), Frank Amankonah (Member, A&S), Rachel Hewett-Beah (Parliamentarian), Matt Mingus (Member, A&S), Bridget Ray Noonan (Member, A&S)

Approval of Agenda

- No objections are noted. The agenda is approved by unanimous consent.
- Faculty Senate still has no secretary, so Matt Mingus hesitantly volunteers to take the minutes. After looking at him with pity, all members solemnly note that the Protestant work ethic still lives.

Approval of Minutes

- With no formal minutes recorded from the last (incredibly long) Operations Committee meeting, this agenda item is passed over without action.

Discussion: Faculty Senate Secretary (John Zimmermann)

- No one wants to be Faculty Secretary
- Robert Galin suggests asking one of the new visiting professors (particularly Dr. Dehaas)
 - o John Zimmermann agrees to this, but cautions the committee about its makeup: nearly everyone is already from Arts & Sciences
- **Planned Action:** Robert Galin will ask Dr. Dehaas if she is interested; until someone agrees to take on this weighty responsibility, the members of the Operations Committee will perform the Secretary's duties in Russian-roulette-style rotation

Discussion: Service Learning (Robert Galin)

- Robert Galin expresses his interest in institutionalizing service learning as a part of our campus curriculum
 - o Galin notes that UNM-Main campus has a learning services group that coordinates both service learning and non-profit volunteering; each department has a representative that reports to this group
 - § Because Galin is already so busy, Zimmermann asks if we can't somehow tap into that resource (Zimmermann notes his interest, in part because of the new relationship between UNM-G's fine arts program and Eagle Café)
- **Planned Action:** John Zimmermann will contact this group and see what can be done

Discussion: FPDC Funding's Present/Future (John Zimmermann)

- Zimmermann notes that during yesterday's Dean Council meeting, the Dean discussed funding for FPDC
- Zimmermann recognizes Lora Stone's attempts to increase funding for the FPDC (which currently sits at a meager \$25,000)
 - o Everyone acknowledges that this number needs to increase and that a strategy needs to be adopted by the faculty to make that happen
- Zimmermann suggests that the FPDC, with support from the Faculty Senate, request \$1000 per faculty member for professional development
 - o Zimmermann and Galin both note that Faculty Senate could draft and pass a resolution in favor of this
 - o Frank Amankonah suggests requesting \$2000 per faculty member for professional development; cheers erupt from the other committee members
- **Planned Action:** John Zimmermann will talk with Lora Stone about how to move forward on this, and provide her and the FPDC with an opportunity to take the lead on this

Discussion: Faculty Senate Ad-Hoc Committees (John Zimmermann)

- Student Services (to be chaired by Carolyn Kuchera)
 - o Zimmermann makes clear his expectation that this committee serve as a mouthpiece of the faculty
 - o Jeanie Baca, the Director of Student Services, has expressed support for the committee
 - o Zimmermann wants the committee to make a list of priorities from faculty (an example used during this meeting was tutoring)
- Information Technology Committee (currently chair-less)
 - o Again, Zimmermann makes clear an expectation that this committee serve as a medium through which the faculty can formulate a list of priorities (example given: printers, particularly in the Library)
- Adjunct Affairs Committee (to be chaired by Bridget Noonan)
 - o Zimmermann notes that the Dean's Council (sometimes contentiously) discussed the issue of adjuncts in yesterday's meeting
 - § The Dean seemed sympathetic to the needs of adjuncts
 - o All members of the Operations Committee express their support for this committee and the positive impact it could potentially have for our institution's most exploited faculty members
 - § Example: computer access, printer access, and insanely low pay
 - o Zimmermann explains that there will be adjunct representation on Faculty Senate this year
 - § Adjuncts will be represented by Kristian Simcox and Martin Link

Other Topics for Discussion

- Hewett-Beah discusses the Gallup READS program (tutoring/reading with young kids in local schools; modeled after a program in ABQ)
- Amankonah discusses sanitation and the lack of paper toilet seat covers on campus
 - o Galin and Matt Mingus both extol the virtues of the bidet
 - o **Planned Action:** Frank Amankonah will email Ron Petranovich and ask about the availability of these seat covers
- Zimmermann whips out the “2009 Operating Agreement between The Board of Regents of The University of New Mexico and The Local Advisory Board of The University of New Mexico – Gallup Branch” (Adopted 17 November 2009)
 - o Zimmermann mentions that this is an incredibly problematic document (especially regarding the issue of curriculum) and encourages members of the Operations Committee to read through it
 - o Mingus asks about earlier versions of the document, approved on 20 November 1967, 3 August 1989, and 31 January 2003
 - § **Planned Action:** Matt Mingus will check with the Director’s office for more information on these earlier versions
 - o Zimmermann wants to potentially disseminate this document to the faculty
- Zimmermann discusses his email exchanges with the Faculty Senate President at UNM-Main
 - o No actual numbers were provided to Zimmermann, but it’s clear that the President receives some kind of monetary compensation and course load reduction
- Bridget Noonan inquires about a Faculty Advisor for the freshly established Student Senate
 - o Noonan is interested in potentially serving as the Faculty Advisor
- Mingus brings up student evaluations, and notes the impending transition from paper forms to an online format
 - o **Planned Action:** the Student Services Committee and Information Technology Committee will both be asked to address this issue
- Amankonah makes clear his frustration with the timing of class cuts during the previous Summer semester
 - o Zimmermann notes that this is a contentious issue between the faculty and Student Services
 - o The committee members also discuss the changes recently made regarding financial disenrollment
 - o **Planned Action:** the Student Services Committee will be asked to address the issues of class cuts and financial disenrollment

Discussion: Set Agenda for Faculty Senate Meeting (19 September)

- To be added to the Agenda as reports:
 - o Director's Report
 - o Dean's Report (if the Dean is available)
 - o CFO's Report
 - § to deal primarily with the new Math & Language labs and printing
 - o Director of Student Service's Report
 - § to deal primarily with Student Senate, enrollment data, and new potential enrollment streams
- No guaranteed action items, but points of discussion are as follows:
 - o Gallup READS info (Rachel Hewett-Beah)
 - o FPDC discussion (hopefully led by Lora Stone)
 - o Service Learning (Robert Galin)
 - o Student evaluations (Matt Mingus)
- Any additions to the Faculty Senate Agenda must be made before Wednesday morning (17 September)

Adjournment: 11:37 AM