

Academic Senate Meeting, May 8, 2014

Minutes

Attendees: Approximately 58 faculty in attendance.

Cheryl Schmidt, Maha Mahadovan, William Culp, Grover Miller, Devin Raney, David Davies, Laura Smith-Olinde, Rena Sheffer, Jennifer Laudad, Omar Atiq, Paul Gottschall, Charles Feild, Alan Diekman, Larry Suva, Elizabeth Bard, Roy Morelle, Perry Chowdhury, Qayyim Said, Helen Benes, Laura Lamps, Richard McCarthy, Lee Ann MacMillan-Crow, Valerie Howard, Howard Hendrickson, Robert Eoff, Thomas Cunningham, Jasa Vuk, Reza Hakhak, A Hayar, Joseph Stimers, Linda Williams, Seonghum Heo, Karl Boehme, Jeannette Lee, Julia Goodwin, Cathrin Carithers, Tom Kelly, Keniv Phelan, Michael Jennings, Donald Mock, Larry Cornett, Steve Post, Robeca Patterson, Nancy Rusch, Brian Storrie, Steve Burve, Daniel Borja-Cacho, Dana Gaddy, Aime Franco, John Mareck, Ilias Kavouras, Ginell Park

Agenda:

1. Welcome and updates
 2. Description of Faculty Life Cycle Committee—Laura Lamps
 3. Summary of Academic Senate action items
 4. Reports from Committees
 5. Election results and introduction of new council members
 6. Open Discussion
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1. Welcome and updates: Dr. Post discussed the various activities that the Senate has done this year, the most recent of which was to complete the 2013 Survey Action Items, which will be discussed in detail later. The Senate Council has been meeting at least monthly, and the Senate Committees are also actively meeting.
 2. Description of Faculty Life Cycle Committee: Dr. Laura Lamps (chairperson of committee) described the UAMS faculty Life Cycle Committee which was established about a year ago. The purpose of this committee is to help all phases of faculty tenure while at UAMS—from the point after recruitment, to career planning, promotion and tenure, mentoring, and planning for retirement. The committee has collected resources from all colleges and aims to improve faculty needs across colleges. Dr. Lamps indicated that many of the tasks that her committee is examining are also ‘focus areas’ of the Faculty Senate, so would like to combined resources and not duplicate efforts. A question from the audience was asked regarding how these goals would be paid for. Dr. Lamps stated that the

Administration indicated they would provide financial backing, but no further details have been provided.

3. Summary of Academic Senate action items: Dr. Post presented the tables that the Senate Committees have generated in response to the primary concerns from the 2013 UAMS Faculty Survey. These Tables and Action Items were suggested and approved by the Chancellors Cabinet. The topic areas included 1) Improve the Value of Teaching on campus, 2) Improve Faculty Mentoring and Retention, 3) Increase interdisciplinary science and increase faculty involvement in developing/implementing research priorities, 4) Improve communication among faculty. These tables were discussed in detail and approved by the Full Senate. After discussion it was decided to remove 'retention' from the second Table-since retention was on addressed in action items. The problem of retention will be tabled for further discussion by Senate Committees. The Senate will post these items on the website for the benefit of all faculty-the goal of this will be to charge the Academic Senate Committees to help implement these action items.
4. Reports from Committees: Dr. Post described each Senate committee with regard to Mission and Goals, as well as Committee representatives. Dr. MacMillan-Crow, Chair of Research Committee, presented the flyer for 'Translational Team Science Meet and Greet' designed to increase Translational Team Science on campus. The Research Committee planned the event, and TRI will sponsor the event which will include snacks and wine on June 12th from 4-6pm in the Walton Auditorium of Cancer Institute.
5. Election results and introduction of new council members: Dr. Post announced that there were over 250 votes for the election. The new President Elect is Dr. Howard Hendrickson, new Secretary is Dr. Laura Smith-Olinde, and the Member-at-large is Dr. Dana Gaddy. Dr. Julia Goodwin will take over as President. We all thanked Dr. Post for a super job as President over the last year!
6. Open Discussion: There were several questions in the room during the discussion of the Survey Action Item Tables. These ranged from: what was meant by the proposed new 'tenure-eligible Educator Track' within each College, how to improve the numbers of 'Exit Surveys' completed, and Dr. Cornett stated that the administration is working on ways to share indirect cost allocations across colleges when grants have multiple PIs from different colleges. There were no questions during the Open Discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 5pm.

