

Sept 25 2014 Academic Senate Mtg

Minutes

Agenda:

Minutes from Aug 8 Academic Senate Council meeting were approved

Committee Reports:

Faculty Affairs committee: Howard Hendrickson had sent a copy of notification that the UAMS Life Cycle Committee had finalized their summary report and made their recommendations to the Provost, Jeanne Heard. Representatives of each College comprised the Life Cycle Committee. The Committee submitted a comprehensive plan (13 pages of suggestions) whose structure was to include 4 stages (Assistant Professor onboarding, Mid-career Associate Professor-to Full Professor, Full Professor to retirement, post-retirement. Within those 4 stages, there would be mentoring and support of all faculty from their first day on Campus through their retirement and beyond. Steve Post was a member of the LCC and shared with Council that there was not a specific structure recommended to the Provost for administering the LCC Plan, but that the committee envisioned virtual support services using existing resources and personnel could fulfill these functions. However, Dr. Heard's version of the LCC Summary Report now includes a recommended structure that includes a named center (Faculty Development Center), the appointment of a new administrator (a new Vice Provost position) and staff positions to perform the functions of the plan under the guidance of a faculty advisory committee. The LCC did not even discuss these as options.

The faculty on the LCC have shared the concern that the Committee did not believe that such a formal structure with new funded positions were needed to perform the plan's functions, and brought their concerns to Council. The Committee suggests the need for constructive ideas and plans for getting the plan off the ground if we do not support Dr. Heard's plan.

Council discussion included an overarching concern that there is not a need for another administrative layer to perform this task, and that it should fall directly within the job description of the Provost's office. Additional concerns included the need for all faculty to have access, and thereby input, into the suggested plan prior to its implementation, up to and potentially including a vote of the faculty. Discussion included providing the feedback back to the Provost that the Senate needs to "see the Life Cycle Committee plan", and that there is an opportunity to streamline and reorganize administrators in a re-structuring to get the job done, rather than adding new administrative layers and positions. One possibility is the restructuring of the tasks performed by the COM Office of Faculty Affairs where administrators there are already performing similar tasks and restructuring their job descriptions could sufficiently implement this plan for everyone. This would be similar to the streamlining that has been done at several other layers and entities on campus.

The Council approved a motion to *"draft a recommendation that states that from our limited information provided, the need for a new position is an unnecessary*

expenditure of existing resources, but require some restructuring of existing personnel and resources. We are willing to reconsider if provided additional information.”

Research Committee from Lee Ann MacMillan-Crow:

1. The Research Committee recently met with Dave Ripa (Vice-chancellor supply chain) and David Lochala (Director of Procurement Services). Lee Ann indicated it was a worthwhile meeting to discuss problem areas that are unique to research purchasing. Mr. Ripa and Mr. Lochala are aware of the need to find alternatives to our current vendor restrictions to save more money and provide more flexibility for investigators. General consensus was that the bottlenecks in getting items purchased and delivered in a timely manner are at training staff at the departmental/unit level.

Purchasing agents shared circumstances that delay purchasing may involve vendor payment for previous POs. For example, when going through the process, some information is ignored. They do so much ordering per year, and have limited staff. When some order is wrong and doesn't get paid, then that vendor fills no orders until the payment is completed.

2. Howard Hendrickson raised the possible issue for the Research Committee: A recent NSF sponsored report was published on the excessive compliance requirements at many institutions across the nation that are over-burdensome to investigators. There is a well-recognized need to streamline non-research related compliance requirements where they are not really required. Howard suggested the Research Committee read the report, “Reducing Investigators’ Administrative Workload for Federally Funding Research”, to see if there are particular results that are common with those requirements here at UAMS that we can highlight and attempt to streamline our own work here at UAMS.

Howard will send the link to the report to Council and the Committees for perusal to determine if any items reflect UAMS-directed compliance requirements as well.

Communications Committee from Grover Miller:

The Communications Committee members recently met with Christine Trimble in UAMS Communications on the launch of the Faculty Blog. Highlights from that meeting include:

1. Target date: We want the blog to be open and active before the next Academic Senate meeting on November 6th.

2. Blog guidelines and details: We need to introduce faculty visitors to the purpose of the blog and outline the guidelines. Christina will send Grover UAMS approved guidelines as starting point. We'll need to mold them to our purpose and then seek UAMS approval. For the introduction, we can use the Executive blog as a reference and again rework it to suit our purpose. Grover will start a draft and seek input from the rest of the committee.

3. Assign and administrator and editors: Abdallah Hayar has graciously volunteered to be the administrator and get the blog off and running. He can grant editor privileges and permissions to do posts and moderate them. The Committee is grateful to him for taking the initiative to get the transition the blog from an idea to a reality.

4. Post topics and editors: We need to recruit editors for posts and topics for posting, as well as a possible system to rotate their contributions.

5. Promote the blog and get our faculty involved. Grover noted that UAMS is moving everything to Intranet that uses a new version of Sharepoint, which may be where we want to have the Blog located in the future. The plan is to use our UAMS survey results as the resource for the topics. Clinicians have a Clinician Dashboard. We could add a link there to the faculty blog for them to easily find and navigate. The link to new blog posts could also be placed with an announcement of the topic being discussed in the weekly Academic Senate calendar emails.

Academic Senate election results were announced: Danny Bercher has been elected Parliamentarian, and Alesia Ferguson is Chair-Elect

Academic Senate Meeting Full Faculty Meeting was announced: Nov 6, 2014 from 3:30-5, with 3:30-4 pm including a networking opportunity with snacks provided.

Location is COPH G219, NW Campus in Parker Classroom and ACH in Capitol View Conference Room

The next council meeting will be scheduled by Doodle poll.

Respectively submitted by Dana Gaddy.