

MINUTES FACULTY AFFAIRS MEETING

DATE: January 12, 2012

TIME: Noon

LOCATION: Founders Chapel

Members Present:

Amanda Branscombe
LaDoris Baugh
Jess Brown
Sean Busick
James Gadberry, Chair
Jameha Gardner
Mike Haghghi
Pat Kuby
Andryna Kuzmicic
Ronnie Merritt
Del O'Neal
Susan Owen
Tom Pieplow
Gary Valcana

Members Absent:

Jacob Gaitlin
Tedi Gordon
Wanda Hutchinson
Wayne McCain

Dr. Gadberry called the meeting to order on January 12, 2012 at noon in Founders Chapel. Minutes from the November 17th meeting were approved with no corrections.

Dr. Gadberry reported that the changes to the handbook proposed last year will be voted on in a special meeting of the Faculty after the next Faculty/Staff meeting.

Dr. Gadberry indicated that he would like to form four subcommittees. Dr. Gadberry proposed the following work committees:

1. Institutions and Centers

Dr. Cromwell suggested that he would like to have faculty input before putting institutions and centers in place. He asked that the committee review what other colleges and universities are doing and provide him with advice concerning procedures for approving faculty lead centers. Dr. Prentice Chandler was asked to join the FAC to help the committee understand the type of institute and/or center the committee would be addressing. Dr. Chandler explained the Center for Social Science that he created and the process he went through to do so.

Typically these centers are created for the advancement of a particular issue (e.g., multiculturalism), receive funding from national organizations, and are a resource center.

This subcommittee will address the process by which the institutions and centers are created. It was suggested that, perhaps, the Academic Affairs committee might be a logical group to oversee the process once it is in place.

2. Office Hours

The Faculty Handbook is vague regarding office hours and although it does state that physical and “virtual” office hours are permissible, the policy needs more specificity. The task for this group is to start the discussion concerning office hours.

3. Handbook wording/terminology consistency

The subcommittee would continue to review the handbook for consistency throughout the entire handbook. There is a standing charge for the committee to review the handbook for wording and terminology consistency.

4. Policy issues

This subcommittee would review the handbook and make suggestions regarding policy. At our last meeting, Dr. Cromwell stated that he would like to see the FAC have more than simple editing input into the handbook.

FAC members suggested a few areas that may be addressed. The general theme was balancing research, service and teaching. Many members felt that it was extremely difficult to devote time to research and service when faculty are required to teach without support, advising, and, perhaps, recruit students.

FAC members signed up for one of the four committees. Dr. Gadberry will email the subcommittee group memberships and create discussion forums for the groups on Blackboard. A timeline for work was discussed.

Dr. Gadberry suggested that Tuesdays might be better for some members of the FAC. The next meeting will be announced.