

**Faculty Assembly Meeting**  
Minutes for March 29, 2016  
3:30-5:00 pm  
Blow Hall Board Room

*Members Present:* Eric Chason, Denise Johnson, Terry Meyers, Chris Abelt, Tricia Vahle, Mark Forsyth, Christy Porter, Steve Holliday, Rex Kincaid, Gul Ozyegin, Sophia Serghi, Cathy Forestell, Patty Roberts, Chris Gareis, Suzanne Raitt, Chris Petrovits, Simon Stow, Carl Hershner

*Members Absent:* Ron Hess

*Others in Attendance:* None

The meeting was called to order at 3:33 by Mr. Chason.

**1. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the February 23, 2016 meeting were approved.

**2. Provost's Report and Q&A**

- Provost Halleran mentioned the Tack lecture titled *Remix and Revolution in Cuba* to be held on March 31.
- SACSCOC was on campus and the review went very well, The Provost thanked Susan Grover and Susan Bosworth for their work on the accreditation. The SACSCOC governing board will send an official report in December.
- Provost Halleran reviewed President Reveley's recent memo to the university. The legislative session was overwhelmingly positive. The Arts building was approved; new money, around 1.2 million for FY 2017, financial aid money for graduate students; raise pool – 3% staff, 3% faculty (November 10<sup>th</sup> start date). Number of possibilities that are very much up in the air for money designated for salaries.

**3. Discussion and vote on Title IX changes to the Faculty Handbook and related procedure**

- Mr. Chason described the process that has taken place up to this point.
- Mr. Chason reviewed the email he sent to the FA with changes suggested by the BOV (see attachment).
- Mr. Chason also explained a proposed change to the Discrimination Policy (see attachment). The President will amend the Discrimination Policy so that any future changes to the definitions of misconduct (e.g., harassment) must be approved by the Faculty Assembly.
- Tricia Vahle and Lily Panoussi made the comments that they support the changes in the procedure. The Provost added that a huge amount of work went into the revision of the policy stating that it isn't a perfect document, but it is strong.
- A motion was made and seconded to adopt the amendments to the Faculty Handbook and the Discrimination Procedure, as previously adopted by the Personnel Policy Committee.
- A motion was made and seconded to amend the Discrimination Procedure as follows:

Part II of the Discrimination Procedure is amended to (1) delete the text "This procedure may not be used for faculty members or former faculty to appeal or complain of decisions not to renew, tenure or promote, except as provided in Section III(C)(1)(d) of the Faculty Handbook." and to (2) replace the deleted text with "This procedure may not be used for tenured and tenure-eligible faculty members (or former tenured and tenure-eligible faculty) to appeal or complain of decisions not to renew, tenure or promote, except as provided in Section III(C)(1)(d) of the Faculty Handbook."

- FA voted unanimously to accept the amendment to the language
- Eric asked if there were further debate and when there was none, called for the vote
- FA voted unanimously to adopt the Title IX changes to the Faculty Handbook and the Discrimination Procedure (as amended earlier).

#### **4. Standing Committees**

- Academic Affairs: Steve Holliday  
No report

- COPAR: Tricia Vahle
  - COPAR met with the Provost to discuss the proto-budget. COPAR made the statement that the faculty's priorities are with enhancing the academic units and are concerned with bloat in the administration. One more COPAR meeting before the end of the year to see how the group is working.
  - The Provost followed up with a discussion on the surplus budget: could go back to requests and select those to fund, or do something bigger which is to have a serious faculty diversity hiring. Another option is advancement efforts – if you go back five or six years, we invested in advancement and now we have a short fall. These discussions are ongoing. Allocations for increased research funding, travel money, and summer pay were also mentioned by FA members.

- Executive Committee: Eric Chason

The Provost discussed the University Ombuds to make it clear to faculty that there are two central options, to seek out Susan Grover or Tatia Granger. Originally, Tatia Granger was hired to be the ombuds for staff, but her role has expanded. The Provost doesn't know if two people will satisfy the demand. They will be more prominently displayed and announced to the university by the end of the week. A conversation ensued about the confidentiality of the ombuds position. Eric Chason offered to ask Tatia Granger and Susan Grover to come to the FA meeting and discuss their roles.

- Faculty Affairs: Chris Abelt
  - The Faculty Affairs Committee had no report.
- Liaison Committee: Liz Barnes
  - Will meet in a few days to discuss the next BOV presentation. Bill Cook will be attending the meeting to discuss student evaluations.

#### **5. Old Business**

None

**6. New Business**

None

The President adjourned the meeting at 5:00.

Respectfully submitted by Denise Johnson