Faculty Senate

February 14, 2019

Mulder Hall, Room 302

Present: Brendan Wall (student representative), Richard Elder, Melissa Parks, Missy LaBorde, Kent Lachney, Christof Stumpf, Chris Stacey, Prakesh Ghimire, Jennifer Innerarity, Melissa Whitley, Michelle Riggs

Guest: Dr. Rowan

Meeting called to order 2:36 pm

Minutes: C Stumpf moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, and the motion passed 10-0-1.

Jason Normand, director of IET, was invited to the meeting but was unable to attend. He may be free for the next meeting, but R Elder spoke to him about the issue of MyLSUA automatically logging off after twenty minutes. J Normand said that the obligatory time-out was due to students not logging off after use and IET stepping in to protect their privacy/LSUA’s security. Although Senate understood that the log-off issue was addressed, we may wish for J Normand to attend the next meeting to discuss other issues. To wit, the keypad access for the Buchanan Building (in downtown Alexandria) is not working. Computers across campus need updates, library computers are not mapped to the printer, and computers have crashed during proctored exams.

Rowan Report: Faculty will have the opportunity to create individual Webpages with the new LSUA Webpage upgrade

Next semester Faculty Senate and the Provost’s office will once again co-sponsor an all-faculty meeting.

In order to facilitate communication, faculty may wish to consider setting aside 5-10 minutes once a week for announcements. Among the communication students need is graduation process information. Although the Chancellor’s office administers the entire graduation process, from application through ceremony, Dr. Rowan is willing to assume responsibility for graduation if deemed necessary for him to do so.

Dr. Rowan shared his idea to find funds to pay Faculty to advise students and to completely eliminate Faculty advising. He hopes to have a professional subject-specialist advisor for each department by 2025.

Student evaluations of courses should be standardized across campus and departments, with the same rules (all courses taught to be evaluated) for each Faculty, regardless of rank. Discussion ensued of the efficacy of evaluations distributed on paper in class versus electronically. Dr. Rowan requested Senators to research other universities’ practices. He would prefer a Faculty-driven initiative. B Walls asserted that in-class distribution of evaluation forms would be much preferred and yield higher returns from students rather than electronic distribution. C Stacey requested Senate to charge the Improve of Instruction Committee with this issue. M Whitley concurred. MK Sunderhaus will contact the committee.

Dr. Rowan encourages the proactive development of an atmosphere of academic integrity for Faculty and students alike. LSUA has no institutional process to educate the campus community about, to define, and to address instances of academic dishonesty, although we do have a system to process student appeals of charges of dishonesty.

Senators asked Dr. Rowan about the proposed Fall schedule wherein classes will be held from 12-12:50 Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The MWF noon hour frequently contains Student Organization meetings and events, as well as Faculty committee meetings. Faculty asked if students had been informed of the new schedule (not well) and why Dr. Rowan insisted on imposing this schedule. He responded that most Faculty request class times and classroom use from 9-1 MWF, which exacerbated the classroom assignment snafu in Fall 2018 and into Spring 2019. Adding the noon hour class time would help alleviate the snarl and promote efficient use of classrooms. He further explained that the Optimizer! did not perform as expected due to the out-of-date software affiliated with the program. B Walls volunteered Student Government members to assist Faculty in determining the schedule. He also expressed a strong opposition to noon classes. Senate ultimately decided that students and Faculty should work together to produce a workable alternative to the proposed schedule that could be implemented in the 2020-21 academic year.

Committee Reports

C&C from 30January2019: M Riggs moved to approve the minutes, and the motion passed 9-0-0-2. The C&C secretary provided a Senate-requested clarification of 29November2018 minutes, which were approved with the approval of the January 30 minutes.

Departments will hold elections for Faculty Senate representatives to replace outgoing Senators. MK Sunderhaus will send notifications to the chairs.

Meeting adjourned 4:03 pm

Dutifully submitted,

Michelle Riggs, Secretary