Minutes November 17, 2015

Senators attending: Dr. Joseph Wahome, Dr. Jiabo Liu, Dr. Candace Stevens, Dr. Moses Newsome, Dr. Stacy White, Mr. Ronald Minks, Ms. Dorothy Vaughn, Dr. Theresa Dumas, Dr. Dan Trent, Dr. Manju Pande, Ms. Barbara Gosa, Ms. Kanika Collins-Sharp, Ms. Theresa Rash, Dr. Jimmie Warren

Not attending:

1. Opening Business
2. Call to order – Dr. Wahome
3. Approval of Agenda: Dr. Rueber requested adding discussion of Academic Map Template. Motion to accept agenda so modified by Liu, second by Newsome
4. No minutes from last meeting as it was almost exclusively a discussion with Dr. Golden and Mr. Melton concerning faculty research grants.
5. Old Business
6. Summer grants: Dr. Wahome reported that Dr. Golden had met with President Bynum and that Dr. Wahome was told that we “shouldn’t have these issues again” and that both the President’s and the VPAA’s office had accepted the FS rubric. All parties made it clear that we should start the application/approval process as soon as possible to make these awards in a timely manner. It remains unclear whether Dr. Golden could still delay/deny awards and, if so, what criteria she might apply.
7. Half-pay: This issue had been raised by Ms. Belton, but in her absence the matter was tabled.
8. Salary review: Dr. Liu circulated a handout that reported his and Dr. Ford’s findings. He noted that the recent raises had a positive – though minimal – effect in addressing salary disparities. Ms. Vaughn asked that we clarify what counts as a terminal degree for each department/program.
9. Senate Office: Dr. Wahome noted that the FS office is now partially furnished and has gotten new carpets and ceiling. Future FS meeting meetings will be held in the office.
10. New Business
11. Tenure and Promotion Calendar: VPAA Bland asked the FS to make recommendations to and approve the proposed calendar. She also made clear that in matters of Tenure and Promotion the recommendations of the candidate’s chair should remain entirely independent of that of the department’s T&P committee. FS voted to approve the proposed calendar; motion by Minks, second by Liu.
12. Post-Tenure Review: Questions still abound about not only the timeline and triggering mechanism but about the process itself and the required documents. Dr. Bland claims that no process exists; Mr. Minks says the FS T&P have worked closely with Dr. Bland on this issue for some time and have approved the process outlined in the FS Handbook. At present much is unclear on the issue. Dr. Wahome asked that senators ask their department members for recommendations and we will discuss this at our next meeting.
13. Grievance Appeal Committee: Dr. Wahome noted the need for a FS Grievance Appeal Committee. Dr. Liu will serve as chair; Ms. Gosa and Dr. Dumas agreed to serve on the committee.
14. Online Education: Dr. Warren reported that he has been lobbying VPAA Bland to increase both the number of courses offered and support for online courses and she seems resistant to these proposals. Other FS members noted similar experiences in their own interactions on the matter with Dr. Bland. It was generally agreed that we are not pursuing online education with sufficient vigor.
15. Campus safety: Mr. Minks reported that in the last week alone there had been at least 16 reported attacks and robberies on campus. Other senators reported a seeming increase in the amount of theft, vandalism, and other incidents, as well as the lack of adequate lighting on much of the campus. Dr. Wahome said he would invite the MVSU Police Chief and Director of Facilities to a future meeting to address these concerns.
16. Academic Map Template: At the request of members of his department, Dr. Rueber raised concerns about the new academic map template circulated and mandated by the VPAA’s office to the chairs. There is much confusion not only about how these are to implemented and employed but also about the lack of faculty input on the issue. Dr. Wahome said he would invite Dr. Bland to a future meeting to address these and other concerns.
17. Matters arising: Dr. Liu reported that he had attended the most recent Chairs’ Meeting as the FS representative. Ms. Vaughn asked what action can be taken about music played at inappropriate volume around campus.

Meeting adjourned by common consent at 12:30

Minutes prepared by Micah Rueber