Faculty Senate Council

October 10, 2012

Present: Bacon, Barria, Boutouba, Bravo, Cai, Fang, Fedder, Fraser, Greenwalt, Gullette, Hight, Hill, Lu, Minowitz, Nanda, Numan, Prior, Said, Senkewicz, Soloman, Stephens, Sunwolf, Turkeltaub, Weber, Woolley, Zanfagna

Excused: Garcia, Li, Racine

Absent: Counseling Psychology, Economics, Electrical Engineering, Political Science, Religious Studies, School of Law

Invited Participants: Peter Minowitz, University Coordinating Committee Chair; Amy Shachter, Associate Provost for Research and Faculty Affairs; John Farnsworth, Environmental Studies and Sciences Department; Stephen Chiappari, Academic Affairs Committee Chair; Diane Jonte-Pace, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs; President Michael Engh, S.J.; Provost Dennis Jacobs

* The meeting was opened at 3:30 p.m. by President Barbara Molony.
* The minutes from the June 6 meeting were approved.
* President Molony noted a few old business items: adherence to the recommendations in the Governance Report; reviewing the recommendations from the Task Force on the Evaluation of Teaching; the need for a Faculty Senate President-Elect.

1. UNIVERSITY COORDINATING COMMITTEE (UCC)

Professor Minowitz reported two main tasks of the UCC:

* Make appointments to the University Policy Committees, Research Committee, and Benefits Committee. He said that the UCC will enlist the aid of the Council representatives at various times to suggest candidates for committee vacancies.
* Create and staff task forces, for example, to review a proposal for a smoke-free campus from the Healthy Campus Committee

2. FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (FAC)

Professor Shachter discussed proposed changes in the Faculty Handbook concerning lecturer and Senior Lecturer appointments and promotion in Sections 3.4A.1.2,Application for Reappointment of Lecturers; 3.4A.1.3, Procedures for Review of Applications for Reappointment of Lecturers; 3.4A.1.4 Reconsideration of a Decision Not to Reappoint a Lecturer; 3.4A.2.2, Applications for Promotion to Senior Lecturer; and 3.4A.2.4, Reconsideration of a Decision Not to Promote to Senior Lecturer.

The FAC proposed additional changes in the Faculty Handbook. These changes were in Section 3.10.2.2.2, Faculty Judicial Board Jurisdiction (lecturer allegation of negative decision for reappointment or promotion based upon violation of academic freedom) and Section 3.10.1.4 Procedures (to add a 90-working day limit following receipt of a grievance).

The Council generally supported the Handbook changes. The FAC is seeking the Council’s approval to send the changes for a vote by the full Senate. Pending approval by the Senate, the changes will be effective immediately with the final approval of the Board of Trustees.

Professor Shachter provided a list of pending items for the FAC to consider during 2012-13. Some of these items will be presented to the Council at later meetings.

3. PROPOSAL ON LECTURERS AND ADJUNCTS

Professor Farnsworth presented the proposal to establish an Ad-Hoc Committee on Lecturers and Adjuncts that would function as an *ad hoc* committee of the Faculty Senate. He explained that this committee is building on the mission of the Lecturers’ Caucus. As related to lecturers and adjuncts, the committee would advise and consult on issues of faculty development and the Faculty Handbook, assist departments in support and mentoring of lecturers and adjuncts, and help integrate lecturers and adjuncts into University governance at appropriate levels. The proposal includes a recommended structure of the committee. After some discussion, the Council endorsed the proposal.

4. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (AAC)

Vice Provost Jonte-Pace reported that the start time of 8:30 a.m. for Tuesday/Thursday classes will begin fall 2013. She noted that the last class will end at 9:10 p.m. She said there is no plan at this time to change the Monday/Wednesday/Friday class times. Other AAC recommendations approved by the Provost relate to academic integrity, Faculty Core Committee membership eligibility and voting process, and a revision/clarification of academic program changes.

Professor Chiappari noted three proposals currently under discussion: revision of the Leavey School of Business Undergraduate Core Curriculum; allowance of double-dipping in the Undergraduate Core Curriculum for Physics and Engineering Physics majors; and allowance of the grade of A+. He noted also the AAC has several possible forthcoming proposals for its review.

5. CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

Provost Jacobs remarked on the task forces that have completed their reports: Governance, Collaboration and Communication, Evaluation of Teaching, and Classroom Utilization noting that three new classrooms have been added (two in Graham and one in Varsi). Referring to the Evaluation of Teaching Task Force, the Provost noted that one of the recommendations is to constitute a separate task force to look at the student evaluation instruments, which the original task force did not have in its charge. He said the UCC will soon constitute this task force.

President Engh said a fund-raising feasibility study has been completed not only to raise funds but find a way to sustain the momentum of fundraising. The President said the Board of Trustees has agreed to fund a new infrastructure to meet this aim. He said further that once the infrastructure is in place an assessment can be made as to how much can be raised and how soon the fundraising can begin.

In response to a question about on-line learning at SCU, Provost Jacobs said that there is a group of faculty from the different schools/colleges who are developing on-line courses for testing on graduate students. He reported there is a group reviewing MOOC (massive open online course), a type of online course aimed at large-scale participation.

Documents distributed at this meeting are available at http://www.scu.edu/governance/facultysenate/minutes. Refer to <http://www.scu.edu/governance.cfm> for additional information on the Faculty Senate and University committees.