

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

September 13th, 2011

LL Library 3:05PM-4:05

Present: Kim Ambriz, Sandra Beyda, Loretta Capeheart, Nont Dhiensiri, Lidia Filus, Richard Grossman, Joyce Jennings, Judith Kaplan-Weinger, Mary Kimble, Phyllis Le Dosquet, Mark McKernin, Roger Reinsch, Zachary Schiffman, Brett Stockdill, May Thill, Dario Villa, Marcelo Sztainberg (for Greg Anderson), Mark Melton (for Denise Cloonan)

Absent: Greg Anderson, John Bernbom, Denise Cloonan, Sundaram Dorai, Ana Fraiman, Linda Nidelkoff

Ex-Officio: Provost Lawrence Frank (for President Sharon Hahs)

Chair Judy Kaplan-Weinger called the meeting to order at 3:07

1. Introductions:

Members introduced themselves stating their interests in being on the senate which included:

- To address issues from last year's senate meeting
- To help review the senate's bylaws and the Faculty Constitution
- To be participate in faculty governance
- To promote instructor voice, improve election participation of instructors
- To work with administration to move the university forward
- To participate in the implementation of shared governance reform as directed by the Spring, 2011 report, "Enhancing Shared Governance at NEIU" by Dr. Ken Andersen
- To participate in areas defending academic freedom and preservation of tenure
- Communicate and collaborate with committees university wide
- To learn and observe
- To participate bringing experience from other university senates
- To address consistency between faculty governance and the union contract

2. Election of Officers

Chair: Dario Villa nominated Judy Kaplan-Weinger and Mark McKernin self-nominated. A paper ballot was agreed upon: Judy-8, Mark-9, abstain-1. Mark McKernin was elected chair.

Vice chair: Joyce Jennings

Secretary: Brett Stockdill

Steering Committee members:

Mary Thill

Zachary Schiffman

3. General Education Task Force (Sophia Mihic, Nancy Wrinkle)

S. Mihic introduced the mission of the task force since, although the task force presented to the FCAA last year, it did not present to the senate. The task force is an effort at the broader representation than the representation of the General Education Committee, the result being a membership of 60 people at one point. We thought a lot about representation in preparing for a task force. Several of us- Nancy Wrinkle, Provost Frank, Dean Njogu and Ana Fraiman and I- participated in an American Association of Colleges and University's General Education Institute in Vermont where we learned about the traps people get into in rethinking general education and started looking at other models. In the meetings, we created a steering committee and work groups with chairs for specific questions to address. We decided that we needed to tweak and not scrap our present general education program because it is strong in offering courses in the departments and is therefore both accessible and rigorous. We do, however, need to improve students' understanding to the applicability to what they learn to other areas. We are using the NEIU Baccalaureate Goals as [approved by FCAA 10/15/09] as a ground to develop general education goals and are at the present. The question to ask is, "What does an NEIU student need as they leave the university that the departments do not offer them?" At this point, we would like to have more input from the university. Last year we interviewed departments; this year we want to hear from other curricular viewpoints.

Questions were asked about

- Instructor involvement in the task force
- Articulation with two year and other four year school
- Timeline

4. Report from the president

Provost Larry Frank gave out the work plan for next year to be presented to the Board of Trustees next week, noting that the document is taken very seriously. One adjustment needs to be made: the timeline for the General Education Task Forces will most likely need to be extended.

Questions were asked about the three new tenure track positions mentioned in the work plan.

5. Motion to adjourn seconded and passed.