

Faculty Senate Meeting/Faculty Assembly

November 22, 2011

BBH 102 3:05-4:05

Present: K. Ambriz, S. Beyda, L. Capeheart, D. Cloonan, A. Fraiman, R. Grossman, J. Jennings, J. Kaplan-Weinger, M. Kimble, M. McKernin, M. Melton, B. Stockdill, D. Villa

Absent: N. Dhiensiri, S. Dorai, L. Filus, L. Nidelkoff, R. Reinsch, Z. Schiffman, M. Thill

Ex-Officio: A. Shub

Guests: Terry Puryear

Meeting called to order at 3:05 by Chair M. McKernin

Minutes tabled for next meeting

Announcements:

(M. McKernin) The senate is scheduled with other constituencies to meet provost candidates. Senators should show up at as many opportunities faculty have to meet with the candidate as possible.

(D. Cloonan) Coming up soon is a panel discussion on the book entitled Academically Adrift : Limited Learning on College Campuses by Richard Arum and Josipa Roksa with presentations from the four Audrey Reynolds award winners, Tim Scherman, Hamid Akbari, Denise Cloonan, and Shelley Bannister, with Audrey Reynolds moderating followed by a round table discussions. Lunch will be provided.

Discussion:

Chair McKernin invited the members and guest to discuss the three issues for action from the Shared Governance report by Ken Andersen selected by the senate after assembly input. (Quotations are from ("On Enhancing Shared Governance at Northeastern Illinois University" by Kenneth Andersen):

1. "Violation of academic decision structures: Administrators, individuals and units bypass normal decision levels where information/recommendations/ decisions move from department to college to higher administration levels such as the provost or president or vice-versa or fail to involve relevant participants in the decisions at a given level. "

J. Jennings, representing the subcommittee on committees, remarked on #2, commenting that task forces and working groups perhaps ought to be appointed by the vice presidents in conjunction with faculty committee, as it is evident that the task forces and working groups address work that needs to be done beyond the time and commitment of the committees.

2. "Communication Problems: Every constituency noted problems in communication. These include top down communication, lack of lateral communication within and among constituent groups, failure to acknowledge/respond to communications in a timely fashion, inadequate time to respond, failure to provide justification for negative actions on recommendations. "A member commented that responses need to be timely and the chairs are key to improved communication; they have an already existing connection to instructors.

(No discussion on this issue at this meeting)

3. "Instructors need a voice: Instructors lack the protection of academic freedom given tenured faculty, have unclear voice and voting rights at the unit level, and no meaningful role in the governance structures of the University. NEIU is dependent upon them and their numbers will continue to grow."

(The bulk of the discussion focused on this issue.)

A member who is an instructor stated:

- Instructor voice is a problem within senate: there are too few representatives and they are uncompensated
- Instructor senate members have had, and continue to have, problems accessing an updated and accurate email list of instructors within their constituency; this may be due to a bureaucratic snag rather than an intention.
- Instructors have no voice at the college or department levels
- Instructor voice at the department level must be fostered at the university level

Actions decided upon in response by general consensus

- Formation of a committee to award CU's to instructors for service to rationalize the compensation process,
- Implementation of a survey or referendum of instructors by instructor representatives

Old Business:

The draft of the policy on courtesy appointments is posted with a deadline in January 2012. The draft of the policy on promotion of chair is posted with a deadline tomorrow. The senate agreed to ask for an extension on this draft as there are faculty concerns that have yet to be discussed by the senate.

Adjourn 4:03