UNLV 2011-2012 Faculty Senate Minutes
Tuesday, October 18, 2011

A regular Faculty Senate meeting was called to order by Chair Greg Brown at 12:15 p.m. in Student Union room 208 B-C on Tuesday, October 18, 2011.


Action Items –
- Approval of September 27, 2011, Faculty Senate meeting minutes.
- Approval of the 2014-2015 Academic Calendar
- Approval of Senator Margot Mink Colbert to serve on the University Bylaws Committee

Chair Brown grouped the 3 action items into a consent agenda. Motion to approve by Senator Wisner, seconded by Senator Montgomery; all items were approved by Senate iclicker votes.

Informational Items –
- Low Yield Proposal - Chair Brown reported that there had been significant changes in response to input from NSHE senates.
  1) Review for low yield programs will be “internal” to the campus;
  2) specifies role for the Faculty Senate in granting exemptions and reviewing programs;
  3) quantitative targets for graduates on a three-year rolling window (rather than annual basis);
  4) exemption “productivity in the receipt of external grants and contracts” and as “other criteria as defined by the institution”;
  5) if program is designated as “low yield” the institution “may recommend to the Board elimination of the program;”
  6) in case of a recommendation to eliminate a program, students allowed to graduate and faculty to be placed in other programs (rather than the program be “deleted automatically by the Board” as in the original version).

- Chair Brown plans to attend the special strategic planning BOR meeting on October 21 at the 4-H center in Douglas County. Contrary to previous info, Senate Chairs are now invited to attend.
- NSHE Senate Chairs will review “curricular review” provisions of Chapter 5 of Code, which is more than ever necessary in light of on-going problems at other institutions with how this Chapter is used.
- The System is beginning its overdue review of NSHE salary and compensation scales as the basis for its 2013 budget; an opportunity to put compensation on the list of priorities for the 2013 legislative session. Chair Brown asked the Fiscal Affairs committee to provide a liaison to the campus and to survey faculty to identify priorities for restoration of compensation.
• The Board of Regents meets again at UNLV – December 1 and 2, 2011. Everyone who can should plan to attend, if possible.

• A task force is being formed, headed by Exec Committee members Jay Souza and Susan VanBeuge, to implement a workplace-based wellness benefit that would be an authorized provider for our health insurance wellness benefit. Additionally, Senator Chris Cochran (who serves on the NSHE PEBP Task Force) will participate, joined by Dr. Jamie Davidson (of Student Life) and someone from HR. More on this at the November and December meetings.

• The Campus Affairs committee has been charged to pursue recommendations of the Campus Climate Survey as discussed at the September senate meeting.

• The Fiscal Affairs committee is working with the Admin Faculty Committee and HR on a survey of faculty and staff about health insurance concerns, hoping to have data by December’s meeting.

• The Senate Ad Hoc Governance Committee, chaired by Professor Reynolds, has renewed its work. We expect the first part of its report on faculty governance including the Senate, early next month. The final survey on research infrastructure to follow in a few weeks; report in January.

• There are 3 openings on the Graduate College committees: Student Funding, Curriculum and Professional Development. Volunteer nominations are accepted.

• Senator Susan VanBeuge gave a presentation on Tobacco Free UNLV citing statistics and survey results from other institutes and UNLV on campus attitudes and concerns. There are already Cessation Services in place at UNLV. Senators are positive to her message.

Committee Report – Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Senator Mike Wilde gave a brief quarterly report which is available to the Senators. The report breaks down salary adjustments by area for administrators and academic/administrative faculty in the first quarter, including justifications.

Speaker – President Smatresk spoke to what the faculty would like to see their university do to improve its image. He plans to go to the department level and ask “Where you are as a department? and Where do you want to be?” The budget cuts and years of lean have hurt our reputation and morale. Now it is time to rebuild and change the quality of our graduates. By meeting with the Governor on a weekly basis, he hopes to partner with the state government to funnel more dollars into education to effect the improvements needed to attract quality instructors and students.

Old Business –
  • General Education change proves to be a passionate discussion. Cost to implement, the value, the availability of classroom space was addressed by Dr. David James of Academic Affairs office. Who will teach FYE and SYE are all questions still to be resolved. Transfer equivalency, opt outs, and catalog deadlines are being considered.

Old Business /Action Item – due to lengthy meeting, unable to include on agenda
  • Faculty Senate Bylaw Amendment vacancy in Executive Committee and Senate term of office

New Business/Future Action Items – due to lengthy meeting, unable to include on agenda

Public Comment –none

At 2 p.m. Chair Brown called for a motion to adjourn; so moved by Senator Filler, seconded by Senator Pedersen. Next meeting: November 8, 2011, SU 208-BC @ 12:15 p.m.