

Faculty Policies Minutes---October 29, 2007

Attending: Jim Benedict, Rob Bledsoe, Tom Colbert, Tom Crute, Charles Jackson, Wayne Mixon, Stephanie Myers, Carol Rychly, Jana Sandarg, Robert Smalley, Debbie van Tuyl, Steve Weiss. Guests: Bill Bloodworth, Ray Whiting

Bloodworth reminded the committee that SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and School) reaccreditation is approaching. The compliance certification materials will be due in the Fall of 2010 and the campus visit will be in 2012. Although we managed to do well last time, the process was painful. To avoid such difficulties this time, we are starting early. Part of that is appointing Ray Whiting as the Accreditation Liaison. He attends the meetings and keep us current on what is expected.

Whiting reported on the current expectations for accreditation. These are significantly different that they were last time, but simpler. Changes may still come before we start the process, but they are likely to be only small changes and he will be aware of them as they arise.

Instead of "MUST" statements, matrices and a self-study, the new accreditation procedure looks at compliance certification. The school must be in compliance with all "core requirements." The school can be given provisional approval if it is not in compliance with all "comprehensive standards." There are many fewer compliance standards than "MUST" statements, however substantial evidence to support these standards will be required.

The submission of the compliance documents will be done primarily electronically and the review done off-campus. The on-campus visit will look at the school's "quality enhancement project." This project must focus on improvement of student learning. The committee will be looking to see that the entire campus supports the project, that the administration is properly funding the project and that it is a researched and thought-out project. The project should be in its initial stages during the visit so that the committee can offer suggestions for improvement. The next accreditation process is supposed to focus on the success of this project. Such projects have been required for 5 years now and are given more emphasis than compliance issues.

FPC asked Whiting to discuss this at the next faculty meeting. He agreed.

Minutes of the October 22 meeting were approved.

The Cullum recommendation was sent to the VPAA and Dean of Arts and Sciences.

In addition to Rychly, Jeff Heck will also be attending the meeting on Faculty Governance. Sullivan is paying for expenses.

Revisions to the Faculty Manual updating wording the "Hull College of Business" and putting the most recent update on the front page have been made. It was noted that the second page of the Faculty Manual also needs to state the most recent update.

The question of what to when a curricular proposal comes from outside the 3 colleges was discussed with Edgar Johnson. Academic Policies Committee has agreed to generate a flow chart that will show the process for changes in curriculum, including such courses. The flow chart would eventually be included in the Faculty Manual.

The revision to the Faculty Manual describing the Academic Policies committee was revised slightly. Since part of the wording requires that all three deans sign off on "information only" matters, FPC agreed

to look at the forms and make sure there was a place to do so rather than a verbal agreement at University Council. Bledsoe agreed to make the revisions and bring it back to the committee next week.

The Student Honors and Awards Committee (SHAC) asked for clarification of their authority to institute new awards. FPC's interpretation was that new awards must be approved by the entire faculty, not just the SHAC. Smalley agreed to ask the committee to clarify the wording in the Manual to reflect this. The SHAC will ask University Council to put the new awards that have been requested on the agenda for the next faculty meeting. There was discussion about the awards ceremony, which everyone agreed was too long. Suggestions were made to decrease the length, but that is a specific charge of the SHAC, so FPC asked them to continue to consider ways to shorten the program.

Mixon will bring snacks next week.