

Faculty Policies Minutes--- January 28, 2008

Attending: Jim Benedict, Rob Bledsoe, Tom Crute, Charles Jackson, Wayne Mixon, Stephanie Myers, Carol Rychly, Robert Smalley, Debbie van Tuyll.

Minutes were approved as amended.

Report from the VPAA/President meeting: The SGA Constitution committee is looking for student members. Rychly will meet with Dean Jones on Thursday about the student behavior proposal and will mention this as well.

There has been no specific VPAA action on Cullum, but he was reminded of what steps he should be taking. He does expect the Dean of Arts & Sciences to house the program, but has not discussed it with him yet. Rychly has talked to Helen Hendee about funding for the program.

The VPAA says that in-class tests are at the discretion of the instructor, and so may be given even the last day of class. However, that is not consistent with the student handbook, so that may need to be changed. Final exams, however, must NOT be given on the last day of class but at the scheduled time.

He is also excited about the computer program for the Committee on Committees.

There was concern that the issue of forgery (specifically, emails sent claiming to be someone else) was addressed in the proposed student behavior document. Forgery is on the list under dishonest behavior. There were also questions about how it applies to faculty safety. Threatening behavior is addressed in the document. It was noted that this student behavior policy is part of a series of issues addressing grievance procedures and our committee evaluations (e.g., Student-Faculty Judiciary).

FPC was asked if we thought faculty would support a faculty pictorial directory similar to the one of student class rolls. The answer: Yes. A pictorial directory might add to a sense of community, which, according to last year's workload study, is a concern. In addition, we would like to see improvements in the printed version of the faculty and staff directory such as placing email and phone numbers on the same list. It would also be nice if one could search for faculty web pages from the ASU web site.

Class attendance subcommittee report: The Board of Regents policy is that the last day students can withdraw with a grade of W is at the 50% point of the semester. Our current policy is midterm. We could delay a couple of days because the BOR counts finals and ASU does not. However, the federal government's requires us to return money granted under Title IV if a student withdraws (or gets an F) in all their courses, having attended less than 60% of the classes. In fact, students can be reimbursed for some fraction of their tuition if they withdraw from all their courses before the 60% mark.

The Academic Policies Committee has been given our suggested revision for their description in the faculty manual (again) and asked for their approval.

Myers reported that the subcommittee on Committee Structure had reviewed about half of the standing committees. It was noted that several committees (e.g., Academic Policies) were already under review. Others were in good shape. However, most needed revision. There was substantial discussion about the role of faculty committees on topics where faculty had no direct influence.

Smalley will bring treats to the next meeting.