

MINUTES
Faculty Senate Academic Affairs
September 21, 2010, 3:30 p.m.
Hale Library, Room 114

Present: Baillargeon, Bennett, Cox, DeRouchey, Easton, Hornsby, Oliver, Moser, Roberts, Spears, and Zajac

Absent: Ganta and Sachs.

Guests: Monty Nielsen

1. Dan Moser, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Introductions were made.
2. The September 7, 2010 minutes were approved as submitted.
3. Course and Curriculum Changes - none
4. Graduation list addition: Roberts motioned to approve the addition of Michael McCaffey Jr., Bachelor of Science, College of Arts and Sciences to the August 2009 graduation list. Bennett seconded. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

5. Reports

A. CAPP – Kelli Cox

Cox reported that two items were discussed. There has been a subcommittee of CAPP that will meet every two weeks to discuss the stand alone minor implementation and should report back to CAPP in December. The committee will also explore all minors and the processes surrounding administration of minors. It was also reported that final submission of grades will be changed to the Tuesday after finals week for all finals, regardless of the date and time at which the final is offered. Bennett commented that this rushes his grading of math finals which are often given late in the week. Cox was asked to have CAPP look into those classes which have finals on Friday afternoon, which this policy would negatively affect. CAPP has also discussed moving drop dates to the 8th day to alleviate the issue of the 7th day falling on a Sunday when faculty members often times are not able to be reached. CAPP will investigate and take action on this item at a later date.

B. iSIS Task Force

Many smaller tweaks are being made. One of the major issues is classes which are shown as open that are only open to certain groups of students - which was misleading to current students on the iSIS system. They are working on an indicator to alert students when it is a class only open to certain groups. Bennett reported an issue that happened in math where reserved seats were rolled over from the old system for certain math classes and no one in the math department knew this had happened. Thus, students were not able to enroll in the class and it was unknown why this was happening at first.

6. Old Business

A. Stand Alone Minor implementation

As noted in the CAPP report, discussions related to this are in process. Moser reported FS/AAC is still waiting to hear from Nuclear Engineering on their proposal. Cox reported it was making its way through the standard curriculum routing procedures.

B. Honorary Degrees

Moser gave an update about how this proposal has come to the committee. President Schulz would like the approval of Faculty Senate to recognize an individual's extraordinary contributions to their respective field. It is not intended to be recognition of gifts to Kansas State University.

DeRouche commented that he liked the idea of the honorary degree. However, he suggested changing the qualifications to read "grounded in a career of scholarship, research and/or creative activity consistent with the academic endeavors of the University." Cox reported that Colorado State has a similar policy that states "Outstanding intellectual and professional achievement and significant and lasting contributions to society" and would like to see it stated this way in this particular policy. Spears commented that she supports the change as noted by Cox and several committee members agreed.

Easton questioned why those who have extraordinary public service or service to the state of Kansas were not included. He also commented that the Dean of Graduate School was not on the committee and it seems that it would make sense that they would be on it. Cox commented that having the provost as chair might be problematic because they are closely tied to the President and may not be truly unbiased. The consensus of the group was that they would like to see another academic person on the committee. Bennett commented that he would like to see the Dean of the Graduate School on that committee. Roberts and Easton agreed. Discussion about the chair of the committee resulted in the suggestion that the Chair of University Distinguished Professors, Faculty Senate President, or Past President of Faculty Senate serve as chair of this committee.

Zajac commented that it doesn't stipulate that recipients are only to receive it once. He also commented that he would like to see someone outside the department who knows the field on the committee. Spears asked the committee to remember that this is an honorary degree meant to recognize someone publicly, not an academic degree.

Hornsby expressed concern that it was too limiting in scope. It should be more inclusive. He suggested that the first point under eligibility should say "An honorary degree is not awarded SOLELY for philanthropic activity or service..."

Oliver mentioned the eligibility issue and wondered if there was some minor wording changes that could be made to allow it to be awarded to fields outside the scope of the university. Bennett commented that he felt that was a deliberate move, commenting that a recipient's field has to be closely related to the fields currently associated with the university.

Moser will work to clean up the copy based on comments and circulate for comment. Committee members are asked to send their comments to Moser. He will try to turn it around in 24 hours and will ask for response in the next 48 hours.

C. RRES 200 – Appropriate use of Topics course.

Moser updated the group on the issue. He was contacted by the head of Kinesiology, who inquired about this. The question was related to whether the instructors of the courses were academically qualified, if the course had identifiable outcomes, and etc. The group discussed the possibility of requiring courses to go through the normal curriculum approval route. Moser will ask Sue Mayes and Sid Stevenson to attend the next meeting to discuss.

7. For the good of the University
State of the University will be Sept. 24 in Alumni Center then in Salina on October 11.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Next meeting is Tuesday, October 5, 2010, Union room 204