Academic Senate
December 11, 2023

Members Present:
J. Spjut (President), S. Buchbinder (Vice-President), J. Anderson, B. Clinton, E. Dubovsky- Porter, N. Germain, T. Greer, M. Hall, L. Kelley, J. Knapp, B. Kaufman, P. Lemieux, E. Espitia-Loaiza, M. Lowe, B. Lynch, E. Michalski, C. Parden, M. Phillion, D. Rimkus, C. Shirshac, T. Shizume, S. Van Orden

Agenda

1. Approval of October & November Minutes
   a. Discussion:
      1. For questions on proposed changes to the Food and Beverage policy for the CFT, contact the CFT for more information.
      2. *Correction to November Minutes:* L. Kelley was present and omitted from the minutes (corrected by J. Spjut).
   b. Vote to approve: Motion to approve the minutes by J. Spjut and seconded by S. Van Orden. Passed with 17 in favor (2 abstentions)
2. Student Services in Willimantic after 4 pm.
   a. There is insufficient evening staffing beyond student workers and Maria some nights.
   b. Discussion:
      1. This is a long-time issue in Willimantic and Danielson when many students take classes. There have been calls to hire evening student services workers, but this hasn't happened.
         1. Context from E. Espitia-Loaiza: The long-time understaffing in Willimantic has been justified by there being not enough students (chicken and the egg logic which keeps the site understaffed and not well-run).
      2. Who is in charge in the evenings after an administrator leaves?
         1. In Willimantic, security has instructions to call the administrator if issues arise.
   c. Alternative staffing ideas to bring to Karen.
      1. Hire someone part-time as an EA for the evenings in Willimantic/Danielson
      2. Cover staffing with different student services (e.g., advising, library, financial aid) on different nights to offer services and oversee work-study students/building operations.
         1. Hire and train additional work-study students (need supervision)
      3. Have AR or release time for faculty to cover evenings in Willimantic (need volunteers).
   d. J. Spjut will bring issues and suggestions to the staff senate and to CEO Hynick
3. Election for "faculty member from your campus willing to serve on the Academic Program Planning Committee."

    a. Context: Original email request sent to college senate November 13, reminder Nov 28, J. Spjut saw the request Nov. 29 thanks to CTSCC Senate representative N. Marcoux-Bowen, will meet in December.

    b. Election for faculty representative for Academic Program Planning Committee

        1. E. Dubovsky-Porter nominates self (no additional self-nominations)

        2. Vote: E. Espitia-Loaiza motions & S. Buchbinder seconds

            1. Vote: 19 votes yes (no abstentions)

    c. J. Spjut will forward the name to faculty senate reps (N. Marcoux-Bowen, P. Bennett, N. Germain)

4. Committee information clarity by semester

    a. Motion: The Academic Senate requests a full list of active committees, including the leadership and members, at the All-Campus Meeting prior to the start of the Fall and Spring semesters. This would include the meeting frequency and instructions on how to join each committee.

        1. Note: a similar resolution was previously passed by the staff senate.

    b. Vote on the above: J. Anderson motions and M. Phillion seconds.

        1. Vote: Passes with 20 votes (no abstentions)

5. QV Resolution on Discipline-Specific Councils – Shelley Buchbinder

    a. Context: S. Buchbinder shares that in the current governance structure of SDCs, Human Services and Sociology in Social & Behavioral Sciences don't have discipline-specific governance processes to review curriculum or to discuss scheduling, program reviews, or other pertinent issues. In this process (without discipline review or consensus, she's seen faculty who present curriculum ideas against discipline/faculty consensus. This resolution calls for the creation of discipline-specific councils (and to change or remove a current level of governance for there to be two levels of review).

        1. M. Phillion mentioned there is one Biology faculty trying to eliminate online sections, but that isn't a consensus, and the Dean can't stop it (no power).

    b. Discussion:

        1. SDCs are a mess.

            1. Philosophy is with communications on an SDC.

        2. Concerns about restructuring:

            1. There may be too many disciplines (how many are there?)

                1. How many APRC groups were there?

            2. Some people would be on multiple discipline-specific councils (e.g., biology vs microbiology).

            3. Some faculty don't have enough full-time representation across the campuses to field a council (e.g., philosophy, geography)

            4. Getting rid of SDCs might be offensive to the people who worked on creating them.

        3. There was no consensus for a vote, but there was a call for continued discussion.

6. Large Campuses Taking Enrollment from Small Campuses

    a. From M. Lowe: There is no course scheduling coordination, and there is competition. Observation is that some larger campuses open too many online sections and make it hard for smaller campuses to run sections. For example, M Lowe always ran an in-person Intro to Humanities, and it didn't run this semester (only 5 registered) despite discussions in other classes and posting flyers.

    b. Discussion:

1. Is there data on how many students QV has lost to online classes at other campuses by discipline?
    1. Patrick Keller could maybe help.
2. Suggestions:
    1. Could courses be listed by course number (not campus), and each campus gets one section in order, and then it repeats?
    2. Could home campus classes come up first (when logged into Banner)?
    3. Could make registering for sections at another campus harder?

7. Spring Meeting Times will be Mondays at 2 pm
    a. Meetings are aligned with the CT State governance meeting schedule.
8. Announcement:
    a. CT State Senate's final Fall meeting will be on December 22. It's open to everyone (from N. Germain)
9. Motion to Adjourn by M. Phillion and J. Spjut seconded.
    a. Discipline specific organizing/scheduling issues (tabled to next semester)

The meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.