

EPAG Minutes

February 7, 2013

3:00 - 4:30 Campus Center

Present: Zach Avre, Holly Barcus, Kendrick Brown, Terri Fishel, Janet Folina, Ezequiel Jimenez Martinez, Ann Minnick, Jayne Niemi, Sonita Sarker (Chair), Jaine Strauss, Chad Topaz, Harry Waters, Jr.

1. Approval of Minutes - minutes of January 31, 2013 were approved.
2. Emeriti Voting: Tom Varberg came to present his rationale for the motion he wants to present on Emeriti voting. Tom began by stating that changes were made in the wording for section 2 to clarify that section 2 that leaves emeriti as participating and speaking members, but not voting members. Tom provided some background on how and why he started investigation on this particular topic as part of his participation in a Midcareer Seminar. Currently, emeriti have the right to vote on all business and have a right to vote in our elections. Tom has the support of 28 faculty willing to co-sponsor this motion and several of the names were retired faculty. Tom pointed out that emeriti currently form 28% of the electorate. They are no longer employees, but they are electing representatives. Voting is by email for committees. Many emeriti no longer live in the area. Tom raised the point that the college practices selective disenfranchisement due to presence or absence of updated contact information. Tom used chemistry as an example because there are six tenured current faculty and six emeriti faculty. One emeriti faculty member was a faculty member for 22 years, and emeriti for 25 years. There are also inconsistencies because another emeriti faculty member is not on the list of emeriti faculty able to vote. Tom has talked to emeriti faculty about this and has their support. FPC has endorsed, but we don't know why. The question was raised, "Why not focus on people who are teaching one semester only and allowed to vote?" Tom responded that several have said the motion doesn't go far enough, and one faculty member won't sign on as a sponsor because it doesn't go far enough. Tom suggested that this is something EPAG could take up. The main point of this is that that emeriti are not current employees. Kathy Murray has talked to our ACTC colleagues and ACM colleagues, and none offer emeriti voting rights. All offer non-tenure, fulltime faculty right to vote. Question was raised as to the timing and urgency. We had a brief discussion about emeriti voting on the motion. Tom has not explored earlier constitutions for the college, so there is some uncertainty as to when emeriti were enfranchised. After Tom left there was further discussion about whether to endorse, endorse with caveats, or not endorse. Since governance is a responsibility of EPAG, the consensus reached was that we should endorse. Last points included that a tightening of the rational focusing on employment would make the group happier. Several members were still not happy about the timing, but agreed to let the debate take place at the faculty meeting.
3. Setting Allocations Dates - Sonita gave a brief summary of the process to students on the process. The deadline for submitting allocation requests is February 18th. Allocation meeting dates are:
March 7th 3 - 6, March 12th, 4:30 - 6:00, and March 14th if needed. Hold the evening of March 14th just in case. We will know more after we have our first two meetings.
4. MESIC - Course enrollment was sent. Jayne corrected one entry on the spreadsheet. French 409 is not applicable to MESIC and should be removed from the list. A question was raised as to the number of concentrations reported. It was suggested that the numbers from the fall Factbook should be used and we should look at number of people who graduate with a concentration. While recognizing the contributions this concentration provides, the question was raised as to "why isn't it more successful?" Is there something that could be done to

improve success? Student members stated that typically students don't know what concentrations are available until they are juniors and seniors. The report doesn't include information on outreach to students, and the suggestion was made that MESIC should be thinking more strategically about programming. There was also concern that there isn't a culminating experience for students who have a MESIC concentration. Listing courses in a more prominent manner was also suggested. Sonita will begin to draft a letter, but members should let her know if they think of other issues.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30.

Respectfully submitted by Terri Fishel, Library Director