FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE MEETING
September 13, 2018
12:50 P.M. ENG 117

Present: ***Carmen Scholz, Monica Dillihunt, Christina Carmen, David Johnson, Tim Newman, Jeff Weimer, Gang Wang, Mike Banish***

Absent with Proxy: Vladimir Florinski

Absent without Proxy: Lori Lioce

Ex-Officio: Provost Christine Curtis

Guests: President Bob Altenkirch, David Moore, Laura Slavin

- Faculty Senate President Mike Banish called the meeting to order at 12:50 pm.
- **Meeting Review:**
  - **Faculty Handbook Preface approved to be placed on faculty senate agenda.**
- **Administrative Reports:**
  - President Bob Altenkirch
    - This is a plot of graduation rates by US News. The left most dot is 2011 then 2015 - 2018. Looking at their projected graduated rate and our actual, our graduation rate didn't change much. We have moved to the right again. This is the most recent US News report for 2019. We fell out of the ranked institutions per this plot. The correlation has gotten tighter. We have a very big difference between predicted and actual. My assessment is we will stay in the alphabetized list.
      - Tim – In 11, 15, & 16, we were ranked at the bottom. Now there are institutions ranked that were below us.
      - President- If you look at the two plots, the 2019 got squeezed. There are a couple institutions that are lower. There are other factors, but graduation is 35%. If they have higher graduation rates, the other factors are higher too. There are only two that have a larger deviation between predicted and actual. There is only one that is equal.
      - Tim – If we admitted a different target of students, would it be lower?
      - President – It is possible. I have to believe that the fact that ACT scores have been higher, the graduation rate will go up.
      - Provost – It has been at 65% for several years now.
  - I have been working with the city on redeveloping the Executive Plaza. For the meeting next Friday, there is a RFP that will be sent out after the board meeting to hire a master planner. Likely, we will hire someone. They will interact with various groups to come up with a plan.

Once the plan is done, we go back to the board and create a new RFP to execute the project. The city is satisfied on how we are doing this.

- Tim – Is the city going to throw in the pedestrian bridge?
- President – That is planned. The board is concerned about crossing the street. They will get tax revenue out of this.

- Provost Christine Curtis
  - There are two policies. One has been sent to you. Academic Affairs Misconduct is with committee. Joey Taylor is Chairing the committee and Monica is representing the senate.
  - I have sent you the Academic Appeals Policy. We went through a revision because we had a student last year who had two complaints. The student wanted to go back three years and faculty only keeps grades one year. We came up with a 30 day window as a recommendation. Other universities are using that too. I am sure that SGA will be concerned. The purpose is to put a time frame on when grades can be appealed. We have asked that it would be back by December 15th.
    - Tim – On page 2, do you know if the intention was the "same class section?"
    - Provost – That was our intent. If you want to tighten up the language feel free. We are trying to establish the authority of the faculty member.
  - The two students that breached the grading system have been expelled.
- The faculty searches for fall of 2019 have been submitted to the Deans. I am starting the paperwork to start those searches.
- I have passed out some data. This is expanded data compared to what we have sent them. We included 17-18 data. On page 2, we have the breakdown of current students by gender. The gender ratio is getting closer together. We have increased the numbers in nursing. Our graduation rate for 2018 is higher, it is at 52%. The pell versus non-pell, I found very interesting. On page 3, there is a table showing the retention rate and graduation rates. It looks that we have serious work to do with our pell students. There probably aren't just some financial issues, but education issues. Our average ACT score has gone up. This is the latest data we have. The five year graduation rate for 2018 is 52%. That means the six year graduation rate next year will be higher. We have to do our very best to retain every student. Each semester counts. The only way the rate will continue to grow is to retain.
  - Jeff – What percentage of our students are pell students?
  - Provost – I don't have that number. Last year it was 33%. Overall it runs 25-26%. I will ask for that information. If you look at Alabama and Auburn, they have high number of pell. Out of state students grew, so pell went down. Pell is typically are coming from Alabama and Southern Tennessee.
  - President – In state is 78%, instate 22%. Freshman in state 65%, out of state 35%.
  - Mike – We had a bill that went through senate last year for students, targeting pell students. It stated that you would look for scholarship money for summer classes.
  - President – No, we didn't.
  - Provost - We accepted the bill. It is on the website under advancement.
  - Mike – I thought there was going to be a fundraising push by the university.
  - Provost – We also suggested the initiative of the senate.
- President – Lot W29 was set aside for the new residence hall. We use percentages of the other residences halls parking. 82% of students in residence halls have a car. The students in the new residence hall prefer to park on the other side of the street. They are packing that more this year. The permit rate dropped to 66%. Some are parking across the street. Yesterday we decided to reduce the residential size of that lot by half.

        - Carmen – What will it be open to?
        - Provost – Faculty/Staff/Commuters.
    - Monica – Do we know how many unrepresented minorities are pell students?
        - Provost – No, but I can get it. We have just hired a new person in OIRA to replace the vacancy.
    - David Moore, Library
        - I want to talk about Science Direct. The library has always subscribed to many online resources by managing the financial increase. They go up about 5% a year. The past several years we have subscribed to a large journal package. It contains about 2,500 stem titles. It is due for renewal at the end of this year. The increase is showing about $4,000. The academic cost for this is $2,500. The usage for science direct is good. The analysis of the usage last year about 50% of the titles saw no uses. FSU has recently decided to cancel this subscription. The National Library of Sweden has also decided to cancel this subscription. In our state, several library leaderships met with them in July. The terms were similar and there were no price adjustments. If we go forward with the cancellation, the funds we would capture would bring the budget line back into order. We would pick up other titles that the budget would allow in its place. Last month I discussed with Dr. Banish. We have supplied additional information as requested. I have decided to cancel this subscription and came to seek the senate's opinion.
            - Tim – I thought one of these databases gave us a sweet deal at the start? Was it Science Direct?
            - David – I don't recall.
            - Tim – Did this start low and then had a huge step up?
            - David – I think that it has been gradual. At the time it made a lot of sense.
            - Tim – Is there any other options within Science Direct?
            - David – They really want to drive us to the big deal. There really isn't another option rather than going title by title.
            - Tim – Do you know the most expensive single title they have that we use a lot?
            - David – The top three titles come from atmospheric science. The publisher pays attention to the usage across the universities and price accordingly. I can say that these titles are going to be $5K-$10K a title. They told me the price is the price. We pay the same as other universities.
            - Carmen – If you take the titles that are of most use, what is the cost?
            - David – More than what we are paying now.
            - Mike – You have the UAH budget with you in your packet. David and I have discussed this over the past few years. It has finally come to a head and asked for a spreadsheet. The total library budget from 2012-2018 has increased by 8.7%. $180K of that has been for salary increases and fringe benefits. The university athletic budget has increased by $3.3M. I think that we vote in the senate that we cancel an athletic sport and give that money to the library.
            - Jeff- I have another concern. We are transitioning through faculty. They are going to be held to standards that I wasn't held to. They are going to require access to top journals to complete research. We are cutting out a resource that will be needed. I don't think that is a wise step. I think

canceling this should be done with great caution. I appreciate the proposal that the funds would be used towards the library.

- Monica – Through the use of Epsco Host, I can access some of those journal titles. Can I still access those titles through this?
- Laura – I bet the full text button is directing her to Science Direct.
- David – I think you can get that because we have Science Direct.
- Monica – I am guessing that some titles will be in other databases.
- Laura – If we were to cancel, if it was open access you could still get those.
- Christina – How many titles does this get us? And can we just cancel those we don't use?
- David – No, they force you to buy the whole package. This is a practice to sustain titles they should cancel.
- Monica – Is Science Direct the only one we are considering canceling?
- David – Yes, we are considering canceling this one because of its percent of our budget. These others are some of the highest cost resources that the library provides.
- Jeff – The two things that I want to distinguish is the ability to search across a broad spectrum and the ability to get a particular journal. How does canceling affect the first thing to me? I get a spectrum now. If I find one that is not accessible by our subscription, I appreciate that we have interlibrary loan. I am very concerned canceling and not seeing a broad spectrum.
- David – You are asking is there a way to preserve a demographic in our discovery system?
- Laura – Primo Path Finder will allow you to search for non full text.
- David – Yes, we can address that. The amount of time to get that PDF file would be longer.
- Jeff – Should the decision be to cancel, please provide a resource link that shows us how to do that.
- David – We will make the effort to make that happen.
- Christina – Since Science Direct is so stem focused and we are heavily stem focused. How many of the same have canceled?
- David – There are others that have cancelled.
- Christina – If we are striving to be at a higher level, we are hurting ourselves to cancel.
- Provost – The coalition is working together. The company will not let up.
- Carmen – This Company is known for ripping people off. Being an engineering school and taking it away, that is counterproductive.
- David – I hope that we could pick this back up in the future.
- Tim – Do we lose all of our legacy titles? If you pick them up title by title how much will we spend?
- David – We will have to determine that next year with our budget. We will spend as much as we can but less than the current. Yes, when we moved from print to online subscriptions, the company based our pricing on that. We will have those. Titles in the freedom collection will go away.

- **Committee/Officer Reports**
  - Mike Banish, President

- Going back to the ranking page. The good news I see is based on national data is our pell graduation rate is 33%. I think the biggest problem that has never been solved is the students come here, change their degree program and they leave. Graduation performance is 10%. We underperform by 16%. Our peer assessment scores are 50%. High school counselors don't think we are a good institution. Faculty resources we are ranked at 65%. All the money we have thrown into athletics hasn't bought us anything in faculty resources. We are in trouble with class sizes. I am concerned about many other things that are out of our control. I do want to compliment our entire faculty that we have a 15% in pell and non pell students. From what I have seen in national data, we are doing really well there.
- I am going to put forward that we cancel one athletic program and put the money to the library.
    - Tim – I disagree. If it is to aim toward the national data, that doesn't help anything. We have to hit points that hit their calculus. We can't neglect any of those areas. We have to hit alumni giving. We have had 15 VP's for Advancement and no one has succeeded. It has to be a hard area. We have to focus on the things here. The library is important but doesn't help with the ranking.
    - Monica – The amount that we have to recruit student athletes helps increase student retention. We are an engineering school but we have other majors and disciplines. Students want activities and things to do.
    - Tim – UAH has made strides in making this a campus that students want to be at. We have grown in student life. We have to maintain that to keep students.
    - Monica- I have heard lots of comments on the basketball team.
    - Tim – If we take money from sports and put it in the library, that won't help. Maybe putting that in faculty salary, that would help.
    - Provost – For all incoming faculty we try to be at the current level for incoming faculty. We are trying to increase salaries. I was in Alabama a long time before going to South Carolina. At Auburn, we went two – three years before a raise. I wish it could be more, but we have to realize there has been an effort by the President.
    - Carmen – We are low, yes. Our climate has changed. Our expectation of our assistant professors is much higher. To cut their resources from the library isn't fair to young professors. Sports are great. On the other hand, the faculty is pushed to the limit. The class sizes went up. To place another stepping stone to get to literature isn't fair.
    - Monica – I am not in agreement cutting Science Direct. I am not in agreement with cutting athletics. If we are looking at retention rate, there are a lot of others reasons students are leaving. The President gave a list last year. We don't have things like football so we have to offer other things.
    - David – The perception of cutting a program could be very problematic. When the hockey team was cut all the community discussed that.
    - Mike – For years I had season tickets to the basketball game. We have to look at what takes the worst hit. Yes it costs 35% of the budget but it is the

primary journal. Our peer ranking is 50%. Then the loss of this will impact us.
- David – We are fighting student and faculty perception.
- Mike – We are talking $12,000 a year. We can't seem to come up with that. The $16M we have more than 5 years ago, we have to make hard choices.
- Tim – The point is its $12,000 a year not just the one.
- Christina – We need more numbers from David. We need to see the cost difference for just buying the individual titles.
- Mike – It will be more.
- Jeff – What concerns me, your proposal, it can address the question of resources. I fear we are not engaging those that will be affected. We are sitting here making a decision on a sports program without any representation from the sports program. I am against cutting the program. One of the dysfunctions of this university is we don't talk one another when there is a problem.

▪ I have a meeting with the VPR to discuss Chapter 5. I have been asked to write a letter to the Governor to see about dropping the speed on Sparkman and Holmes. We have a school zone and no police support.
- Provost – You said we have no police support. I disagree. The speed limit is set by department of transportation.
- Tim – I am told that UAH police have pulled people over on Sparkman.

▪ Carmen – I have been approached by biology about the no weapons sign on campus.
- Provost – State law allows it, policy denies it. There is no state law.
- Carmen – Other universities have them? The issue is still sore to the biology department.

▪ We have been working on the preface to the handbook. I suggest that it goes before the senate.
- Mike – Carmen, myself, Tim, Laird, and Kader came up with this language.
- Tim – I move that this be put in the agenda. Monica seconds. Ayes carry.

o Tim Newman, Parliamentarian
▪ No report.

o Christina Carmen, Ombudsperson
▪ No report.

o Gang Wang, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Chair
▪ No report.

o Jeff Weimer, Finance and Resources Committee Chair
▪ I have met to initiate the process of RCEU to request proposals from faculty. We will be updating this from last year. We discussed various improvements we may make in the processes. I am now aware of the process to solicit funds.
- Mike – The administration did accept relooking the F&A rates. You are a member of that committee.

o Monica Dillihunt, Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs Committee Chair
▪ I met with Joey, Emmanuel, and the two students on the academic affairs policy. We looked at various other universities and have some changes. Once it is cleaned up among us then the committee will review it.
- Provost – Everything is staying within academic affairs?

        - Monica – Yes.
    - David Johnson, Faculty and Student Development Committee Chair
        - Lori and I will meet next week to discuss student retention from a faculty perspective.
- Jeff motions to adjourn at 2:18 pm.