Parsons Faculty Council (PFC)
November 3, 2013
9:30-11:00

In Attendance:  Thomas Werner (Co-Chair), Craig Bernecker (Co-Chair), Steven Faerm (Secretary),
Anezka Sebek, Derek Porter, Timo Rissanen, Aaron Fry, Christian Schneider, Tom Bosket, Jose DeJesus,
Kerry McNaughton, Fiona Dieffenbacher, Luciana Scrutchen (Senate Rep);  Joel Towers, 10:30-11:00

Welcome

Supplement Sub-Committee Update
● Recent meeting with to inquire if end of year is a hard deadline for the supplement?; this is uncertain but we need to work towards completion by year end.

Service Sub-Committee Update
● Upcoming Friday 12/6/13 meeting with Joel; what is appropriate Service for Parsons?; we want to move forward the idea of Service and appropriate quantity; goal is to create a logistical version and put forth a vote; how do we add weight to committees?; We may remove weighting service from the workload document.
● We can put forth a logistical version of the Teaching portion in the spring semester; do we want to continue with the 5 course model?; Some programs weigh all 6 hour contact hour courses at 2 while others weigh 6 hour studio courses at 1.5; SCE 12 contact hour studio courses weigh at 2; to weigh them all at same weight aids in faculty portability, yet the “con” is simple faculty choices (1.5 over 2 six hour courses) and feasibility of faculty's load; logic in SCE is the prep time needed for the course (e.g. studio versus seminar or lecture course); feeling expressed that in SDS similar courses are weighted differently and this needs to be examined;
● Feeling expressed Parsons should develop a unified policy to meet the aspirations of the School, and look forward at how we teach, how we deliver content, etc. while finding equity and balance as much as we can; teaching across University must also be looked at;
● Timelines will be looked at for faculty to vote next in the spring semester.

Advising Sub-Committee Update
● Upcoming meetings; notion is to have Schools develop their own advising models;
● In AMT, focus is particularly on BFA Sophomore year and adopting a test-pilot model for fall 2014.

PFC Vacancies
Some faculty were nominated in SDS, nominations were declined by nominees.

Senate Update
Next meeting Tuesday, 12/10/13; details to follow.

Bylaws Update
● Document sent by Craig Bernecker to PFC members to review; the document is a compilation of the various revisions; sub-committee revisited the 2010 document and used this as a baseline; Soo Chon provided input, and Joel Towers to follow; compilation of subcommittees proposals and Soo Chon's recommendations, primarily with language; quorum issue needs to be discussed;
● Can in-person and online voting occur and move forward; feeling expressed if electronic or ballot box voting is adopted, it will increase PFC responsibility to facilitate, etc.;
● Idea raised again to have faculty sign-in sheets at meetings; concern raised this could be used against faculty at reviews; feeling expressed the sign-in sheets would be for internal PFC use only, and be particularly beneficial during voting activities; should attending PFA be counted as Service?; feeling expressed faculty attending PFA is "service to oneself" as a hired faculty member;
● Feeling expressed that we, as PFC members, must be more diligent about informing faculty (particularly new FTF) of the importance of the PFA;
● PFC is encourage to "advertise" more, and to create a Welcome Letter for all FTF in order to create incentive; perhaps this letter can include a visual diagram of the various committees that illustrate how PFC, PFA, and broader University governance work together; how does the PFA fit into the community at large?; is there an organizational chart showcasing these committees?; Craig and Thomas to create a Welcome Letter for faculty, spring semester;
● Under Terms of Office, electing alternates was deleted;
● Discussion around PFC Chair and Vice Chair roles; should these roles and responsibilities be clarified?; sub-committee thought these roles would create a sense of succession and to help separate some of the responsibilities; feeling expressed that a balanced leadership of two Chairs is good, particularly at PFA and the necessary balance of workload; we need to ensure a succession of leadership successfully retains historical memory; staggering leadership can create this;
● Bylaws sub-committee to reexamine the revisions, and present in the spring semester.

Joel Towers, 10:30-11:00
● Regarding the Bylaws, the Provost's Office is interested in reviewing the work in process;
● Following the PFA meeting’s quorum discussion, concern expressed that if PFA goes below majority vote, we risk losing a key democratic principle connected to governance; how do we get more FTF to vote?;
● PFA role is currently advisory, but there is interest in moving towards real governance; if this is the goal, we will need to go through board approval; how can we move governance forward?; how can we gradually move toward a governance model in the coming months?;
● How can we create a voting process that encourages discussion, yet provides immediacy; process is currently cumbersome and is heightened by the five School model; can a more hybrid model become more efficient?; acknowledged that some issues take substantial time and faculty involvement, while others may not;
● Suggestion made that PFA can work on delivering real benefits to the faculty, and this will increase attendance;
● These deliverables will frequently need to be developed and delivered in partnership with the Dean’s office. Increased dialog between the PFC and Dean’s Office, and a more efficient process will be necessary.
● Feeling and concern raised around the "reactive" culture versus "active" culture; example given of the Terms of Agreement when logging online, asking faculty to agree to terms of agreement without prior review; this new policy was not communicate to faculty prior; discussion around upcoming changes with online system and this may be a benefit, though not fully communicated.
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