

Faculty Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2012
2066 Weimer Hall
1:30 p.m.

In Attendance:

Spiro Kiouisis (Department Chair), Linda Hon, Deanna Pelfrey, Mary Ann Ferguson, Sora Kim, Moon Lee, Juan Carlos Molleda, Belio Martinez & Ann Christiano.

Absent: Kathleen Kelly

Meeting Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Budget Projections
3. Dean's Search Update
4. Undergraduate Curriculum Taskforce Report
5. Public Interest Communications Certificate (Action Item)
6. Department Strategic Plan Goals
7. Graduate Program Update
8. Academic Assessment Plans/Rubrics
9. Future Plans Update from Dr. Martinez
10. Closing Comments for the Year
11. Old Business
12. New Business

Welcome

Dr. Kiouisis thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Agenda Items:

1. Approval of Minutes:

Dr. Kiouisis asked if we could have the minutes from the last meeting approved. Dr. Molleda moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting and Dr. Ferguson seconded the motion. A vote was taken with the faculty present and all were in favor. No one was opposed.

2. Budget Projections:

Dr. Kiouisis informed the group that the last information he received said that the college would have to cut out 5% of the budget. He said that no faculty positions would be affected except for the impact of not filling the open faculty position in our department. He mentioned that there would be some impact to staff positions however as far as he knew it would not be from our department. Dr. Ferguson mentioned that the Dean has until the 7th of next month to make his recommendations.

Prof. Pelfrey mentioned that it seems like the 3% increase in salary for faculty may be off the table and no longer a part of the negotiating process. She said she would confirm this information for the next meeting. Dr. Kiouisis told the group to make sure and voice their opinion with the union and or contact your college union representative. There was some more discussion on this topic among the group. Prof. Pelfrey also mentioned that in regards to the University self-insurance, it seems to have passed for all groups affiliated with Shands but not for us.

3. Dean's Search Update:

Dr. Ferguson reminded the group that the candidates for the Dean's position will begin their visits to campus next week and that there will be a search committee meeting to look at the strengths and weakness of each of the candidates after their visit to the college. She told the group to refer to the emails and information that has been disseminated on each of the candidates and reminded everyone that there is an evaluation form that can be filled out by each faculty member for each candidate and dropped in a collection box in the Dean's office. Dr. Kim informed the group that the special faculty committee has been discussing how to best give feedback to the provost on the candidates and they have decided to have a meeting just after each open forum for each candidate, to gather feedback. The Provost told the committee that he would consider their feedback and wanted information to be given to him immediately following the last candidate's scheduled meetings on campus. The committee also requested that each candidate present a visual presentation during the open forum. Some discussion took place about what format we should use as a group to ask each of the candidates questions during our department session. Some questions were presented and Dr. Kiouisis asked everyone to email him exactly what questions they wanted him to ask the candidates during the session with our department. He said he would compile the list of questions and email it later today for more feedback. Dr. Kiouisis asked that everyone remain passionate about their interest but remember to be collegial with one another. He wants everyone to keep in mind that we want the candidates to leave with a good impression of this college. There was some discussion among the group, of the transparency of this process and the feedback that the faculty can give to the provost as a way to offer their opinion.

4. Undergraduate Curriculum Taskforce Report:

Prof. Pelfrey provided a packet with information from the Undergraduate Curriculum Task force Committee for the faculty to review. She mentioned that in the packet there are parts 1 and 2 of their recommendations and that part 3 of the recommendations would be sent via email shortly. She said that the committee wants the group to have time to review the information before the fall semester. Dr. Kiouisis thanked the committee for all their work and said that a draft of final recommendations is being developed and should be ready for review by the fall meeting.

5. Public Interest Communications Certificate (Action Item):

Prof. Christiano said that voting on the certificate program is an action item for today and that she is looking for a motion to approve the Public Interest Change Communications Certificate Program proposal. Dr. Kim asked about the title of the certificate and Prof. Christiano said that she chose Public Interest Communications because it resonates better with the industry. Dr. Kim said that she would like more CSR content in the program and that CSR should be a part of it. Dr. Kiouisis said that since the International Public Relations Certificate Program already is using Ethics and

Responsibilities as one of their courses that it could not be used here also. Prof. Christiano mentioned that CSR would be discussed in her Public Interest Communications course and that it is covered in her class. Dr. Molleda mentioned that Prof. Christiano has done a great job of addressing all of the feedback that the faculty gave her and has implemented some of the recommendations made earlier by the group. Therefore, he moved to approve the certificate program. Dr. Ferguson seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all members present. All present were in favor and no one was opposed.

6. Department Strategic Plan Goals:

Dr. Kiouis told the group that this is the information that was provided in the last meeting for review and feedback was given. He said that after receiving the feedback some changes were made and would like for us as a group to adopt this and apply it towards the development of our departmental strategic plan. Dr. Ferguson moved to approve and Dr. Martinez seconded the motion. All members present were in favor and no one was opposed.

7. Graduate Program Update:

Dr. Molleda told the group that has been reviewing the applications for the program and that they have reference some of the data from previous years. He reported that they are seeing an increase in admissions and said that to date 141 applications were received. Of those, 121 have already been reviewed, processed and decided upon. He said that 88% of the applicants are female and 12 % are males. Of the 141 applications, 58% are from the communications field. As of now 67% have been admitted and so far 42 students have accepted and said that they are coming to UF. He said that we will have a record number of students coming into the Masters program in the fall. He also mentioned that 62 of the 141 applicants only applied to UF. The scores for the applicants all look good and seem to be rising in numbers from previous years. Discussion took place about how the group would handle such a large number of students. Dr. Kiouis addressed the group and said that it can be handled instructionally however the challenge will be in advisement. Discussion took place about how we could handle the work load and how class sizes would be affected. It was also mentioned that admitting such a large number of Masters Students would have a positive financial impact to the college revenue.

8. Academic Assessment Plans/Rubrics:

Dr. Kiouis thanked the group for their feedback.

9. Future Plans Update from Dr. Martinez:

Dr. Martinez thanked everyone and spoke about his time here at UF. Dr. Kiouis presented him with a token of appreciation and wished him luck in his future endeavors.

10. Closing Comments for the Year:

Dr. Kiouis reminded the group about the end of year event he would be hosting at his home next week.

11. Old Business:

None.

12. New Business:

Dr. Lee reminded the group that new faculty senate members need to be elected for next year. Dr. Kiouisis said he would make sure that new members get elected.

Respectfully submitted by Martha R. Collada

Approved at the Department Faculty meeting held on September 21, 2012