

Faculty Council

School of Public Health and Health Professions

Meeting Minutes – April 3rd, 2010

Present: Jenn Temple, Steve Bauer, Harold Burton, Jim Lenker, Scott White, and Greg Homish.

Meeting began: 11:00 AM

Meeting adjourned: 11:55 AM

I. Officer Elections for Next Year:

- a. Greg Homish nominated Jenn for president
- b. Steve nominated Jim for secretary
- c. We voted and the votes were unanimous for both.
- d. This led to a discussion of the policies for voting in new officers. We decided that this needs to be addressed and, while the bylaws may need to remain vague about this policy for the time being, that it would be a good idea to have e-mail nominations and to give everyone a week to think about the nominations and to vote via e-mail if they are not able to be present at the meeting. This will give everyone the opportunity to have their opinions voiced. This will be one of the orders of business when we reconvene in the fall.

II. Teaching Forum Feedback

- a. Jim solicited feedback from the faculty in SPHHP about whether they did or did not attend the teaching forum.
- b. For those who did attend, he asked what they liked best and least and for feedback about future forums. The forum was well-liked and the suggestions for future forums are good and will be considered in the fall.
- c. For those who did not attend, he asked why they did not attend. The general response had to do with prior commitments on that date. One faculty member was uninterested in the topic.
- d. Steve has developed a metric for getting more precise feedback from faculty and staff about the importance and quality of presentations as well as a method to keep record of who is attending these forums and what their departmental affiliations are. We are planning to pilot this new screening tool next year and modify it as needed. We will begin with paper and pencil sheets at the time of the forum. We feel this will yield the most accurate data.

III. Replacement Faculty Council Representatives

- a. We discussed replacement of faculty council members who are rotating off.
- b. The practice has been for people who are leaving to identify and recruit a replacement.
- c. Steve also brought up the importance of having people who are willing and able to participate. Often we stress the low time commitment in our recruitment, but this year we have had some individuals make it to only one or two meetings, if that, and need to make sure that every Department in the School is represented.
- d. Greg discussed the possibility of Jenn informally contacting individuals who we think would be good and active members, although there was some concern about bypassing the department chairs. We decided that an informal first approach, followed by encouragement to discuss it with the individual's department chair, would be acceptable.

IV. New Business

- a. Steve brought up the fact that our bylaws state that the mission of the faculty council is to help improve the quality of student and faculty life. This raised the question of whether we should be sponsoring more activities that deal directly with students. We decided that we should focus on faculty and staff and that the students benefit indirectly from improved teaching and mentoring.
- b. Scott raised the issue of finding new Faculty Senate representatives. We have been discussing this for the past two years. Currently, we have been raising the issue in faculty meetings, but have had no positive responses. We need to come up with a new strategy to target people and put some pressure on individuals who are willing and able to fill this role. Jenn suggested going through the Department chairs. Steve, a current Faculty Senate representative, discussed the role of the Faculty Senate and the time commitment.