**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 06, 2013**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present**: M. Akladios, W. Amonette, J. Moss Bechtold, C. Diepenbrock, K. Divoll, J. Fritz, D. Garrison, L. Gossett, S. Graves, D. Haworth, A. Johnston, D. Kirkwood, K. Ley, S. Masood, F. Matthews, S. McIntyre, T. Michael, I. Pavlova, A. Perez-Davila, M. Peters, R. Puzdrowski, B. Rashid, L. Robinson,

M. Rob, M. Short, J. Smith, D. Schmidt, B. Stephens, L. Jean Walker, C. Ward, J. Willis, P. Withey

**Members Absent**: P. McCormack, F. Simieou, A. Valenti

**Others Present**: S. Gladden, G. Houston, K. Matthew, R. Short, C. Stockton, K. Wielhorski, D. Casserly

Y. Bendeck, T. Cummings

**Approval October 2, 2013 MINUTES**

The minutes were approved as presented.

**Provost’s Report**

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) approved the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree. At the last THECB meeting, there was little discussion on issues relating to higher education. Discussion focused mainly on how the public schools could better prepare students for college and workforce development. There have been staff changes at the THECB. The EdD in Curriculum and Instruction proposal is being reviewed by a new staff member. A recommendation will be made soon. The full Psy D proposal is being routed through shared governance. The four year initiative is progressing. Dr. Houston is working with SCE and faculty on purchasing equipment for freshman science labs and the BAS Instructional Technology Program.

**Shared Governance Committee Reports**

**University Life Comm**ittee: Dr. Davila reported that ULC approved including electronic cigarettes and chewing tobacco to the smoking policy. The Student career day will be held November 9.

**Planning & Budgeting Commi**ttee: Dr. Garrison reported that PBC town hall meetings will be held November 13, 15 and 19 in the Student Lounge.

**Facilities & Support Services Committee**: Dr. Rashid stated that FSSC did not meet in October. FSSC will meet with the Task Force for Internal Building Use Policy on November 7. FSSC will convene on November 18.

**QEP Report**

Dr. Walker reported that on November 1st and 2nd Dr. Gerald Nosich presented a workshop on critical thinking to the faculty. There were 68 attendees that included 17 HSH faculty, 19 SOE faculty, 3 faculty from BUS, 23 from SCE, 3 staff members from the Library and 1 staff member from the Student Success Center. Dr. Short, HSH Dean and Dr. Czajkiewicz, SCE Dean attended the workshops. Their involvement is especially important and appreciated as it relates to annual faculty reviews. The workshop focused on an introduction to critical thinking which included elements and standards of the Foundations of Critical Thinking model, the affective dimensions of critical thinking and teaching strategies that foster critical thinking. The template for developing a critical thinking course syllabus was distributed. Critical thinking within a discipline was explored in terms of fundamental concepts and questions within a content course. Additional professional development for both cohorts will be offered in the spring. A total of 13 critical thinking courses were launched this fall.

**Faculty Senate Committee Reports**

**Budget Committee**: Dr. Robinson said that the committee attended PBC presentation of Tuition of Fees to SGA instead of the regularly scheduled meeting.

**Research**: Dr. Gossett – At the last meeting, committee members expressed concerns about more journals going to open access format that require publication fees. To encourage research in peer reviewed sources we need to identify sources to cover those fees. The committee will meet with Ms. Wielhorski to discuss open access issues. Other concerns included challenges faculty face relating to maintaining a high level of research such as time constraints due to faculty overloads and the new scheduling grid. The new scheduling grid will make it more difficult for faculty to have large time slots for successful research. Also, space issues and time constraints relating to the four year initiative will impact faculty research. Dr. Gossett asked members to forward any additional concerns to the committee.

**Curriculum & Teaching Committee**: Dr. Willis stated that the C&T approved a minimum requirement of 15 semesters for a Minors degree. C&T seeks Faculty Senate approval to have the amended Minors Policy added to the catalog. Dr. Gossett reminded the senate of her concern relating to the sentence “Inclusion of minors in programs of study may not result in graduation requirements that exceed the approved length of the degree plan (typically 120 hours). Dr. Gossett made a motion to delete this sentence which was seconded by Dr. Matthews. The motion passed. Dr. Stockton explained that institutions must seek permission from the THECB to officer programs over 120 hours. The statute requires a “compelling academic reason” for more than 120 hours. If the degree requires a minor and goes over the 120 hours, we would have to return to the THECB for approval. The best strategy would be to fit the minor degree into the 120 hours. Dr. Gossett said that typically minors are not mandated in a major but an additional study that demonstrates students’ qualifications. Dr. Gossett’s interpretation of the statute is that the major plus the minor is not limited to the 120 hours. Minors are typically in addition to degree requirements. At UH and Texas A & M minors are additional hours. The institution would benefit financially from the 6-12 additional semester credit hours gained from minor degrees. Dr. Bendeck commented that the 30 and 40 hour rules are based on 120 hours. Students would need to be aware that they would incur additional fees if they exceed 120 hours by adding a minor. Students request waivers of the excess fees and the institutions does not get compensated with formula funding. Dr. Gossett stressed that according to the statute; the state will compensate for at least 30 hours in excess of the 120 hours. Dr. Bendeck replied that the THECB response to inquiries on this issue was that 120 hours for a degree. There are also financial aid implications for extension of semester credit hours. Dr. Bendeck will forward information to the senate regarding financial aid implications. Dr. Ward suggested that Item Number 4 be deleted from the policy. A motion and second were made to delete this item. Motion passed. The Requirements for a Minor Policy was approved as amended.

Following discussion, the senate approved the Approval Process for Degree Minors with the amendment- change “Faculty Executive Council to Faculty Senate Executive Committee”.

Dr. Willis presented the Program Discontinuance Policy and Procedures for Senate approval. Since the THECB will no longer authorize discontinuance of low-producing programs, the academic schools will need to develop mechanisms to keep programs viable. C&T proposed adding 5.2 “*A majority of the faculty of the school, as defined by the school’s bylaws, must recommend discontinuance using procedures in the school’s bylaws”.* Following discussion, there was a motion to strike out “using procedures in the school’s bylaws” from the statement. The Senate approved the amendment. In reference to Item 5.1 “The appropriate school curriculum committee must recommend the discontinuance”, Provost Stockton stated that the THECB can send statements to the Board of Regents who can recommend discontinuance. Because the policy alludes to faculty dismissal, the amended policy would have to be referred to UH-Legal for review. Dr. Willis indicated that the only amendment C&T made was the addition of the statement prompted by the THECB policy change. Provost Stockton asked that policy amendments be highlighted in the revised versions. Additional concerns were expressed related to Numbers 6.0 and the 7.0. It was determined that the Financial Exigency and Faculty Dismissal policies may impact the Program Discontinuance Policy. Consequently, the Senate approved deferring the Program Discontinuance policy pending further review.

Dr. Willis presented the policy relating to Upper-Level Requirements for Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts. C&T recommends amending the minimum hours of upper level courses from 60 to 45. On a motion and second the policy was approved as amended.

Dr. Mary Short presented the Doctor of Psychology in Professional Psychology proposal. She stated that a survey of past students showed that 50% would return for the degree. In Texas, several hundreds of students apply for the doctoral program and only 6-10 are admitted. Clearly, there is a demand for jobs as per the APA monitor where 600 jobs are currently posted. There are significant opportunities for internships and jobs. Dr. Willis stated C&T members felt that the proposal was well written. C& T recommends Senate approval. The senate approved the proposal unanimously.

Dr. Willis stated that C&T recommends modification to the Program Review Policy to reflect recent policy changes from the THECB. The senate will revisit the policy at the next meeting as C&T amendments were not circulated to senate members. The policy was deferred.

**Faculty Life Committee**: Dr. Frank Matthews presented amendment one of 5.9 of the Faculty Workload Policy for a second review by the Senate. The Faculty Life Committee recommends approval of granting credit for independent study as defined in the proposed amendment. On a motion and second the senate approved the amendment. Dr. Garrison stated that he received comments from various constituents related to the Workload Policy in general. Consequently, Dr. Garrison added that he amended the 6th draft version that Faculty Life proposed in the October meeting. Dr. Garrison requested an amendment by substitution. He recommended further review of the document and presentation for approval at the next meeting. Provost Stockton agreed that deferring the policy would give the Deans time to provide feedback on the proposed amendments. He thanked Dr. Garrison for presenting the policy to the Deans Council. Several members asked for a highlighted version of the amended policy in order to be clear on the suggested changes. Following considerable discussion, the senate agreed to table the Faculty Work Load Policy.

**Announcements**

Dr. Diepenbrock invited members to the Writing Center 20th Anniversary celebration on November 15.

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.