

## Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting

Minutes

September 29, 2015

9:00 am

College of Education & Human Services, Room 2050

Members in attendance: Alicja Rieger, Katharine Adams, Eric Howington, Dominick Gheesling, Hasson Tavossi, Nancy Swanson, Lee Grimes, Laura Carter, Harold Thiele

Other attendees: none

9:00 am: Call to Order.

Agenda items:

1. Welcome and member's Introductions.

*Meeting called to order by A. Rieger. Committee members introduce themselves.*

2. Review and approval of the Faculty Affairs Committee bylaws.

*The bylaws were distributed and briefly reviewed. After discussion, the bylaws were approved with two changes: 1) removal of "Draft" from the title, and 2) correction of typographical error in section 2 of Article VII (in last sentence, change "minutes" to "amendments").*

3. Secretary for the Faculty Affairs Committee.

*Upon review of the bylaws, it was noted that the chair-elect (Eric Howington) is designated secretary of this committee.*

4. Review of the Annual Status Report 2015 (submitted spring 2015 by Dr. William Buchanan, Interim Chair for 2014-15).

*A. Rieger provided a brief overview of the recent history of the Faculty Affairs committee for the benefit of the committee's new members. Additional input was received from other committee members familiar with the recent history of the committee and the committee's current charges.*

5. Set up goals for this year related to two ongoing charges: 1) academic freedom and 2) sick-leave policy.

*During discussion, D. Gheesling suggested that our committee draft a "policy on academic freedom" if VSU does not already have one. H. Tavossi suggested using the AAUP policy as a template. It was agreed that the committee needs to find out if VSU has an academic freedom policy already.*

*With regards to the sick leave investigation, K. Adams noted that the charge presented to the committee last year has already been completed. The report generated last spring by K. Adams satisfies the charge that was submitted to the committee and that report is ready to be submitted to the Faculty Senate.*

*After discussion, it was agreed that the committee members should all review the report and suggest any additional verbiage that needs to accompany the report. K. Adams said she would forward the report to the committee for review.*

*H. Tavossi suggests adding investigation of the recently announced reduction in force to the committee goals for this year.*

6. Revisions and updates to the subcommittee memberships.

*A. Rieger distributed subcommittee assignments. K. Adams and N. Swanson suggested disbanding the subcommittees and working on the charges as a whole committee. It was motioned, seconded, and unanimously voted to disband the subcommittees.*

7. Committee meeting schedule.

*The next meeting of the Faculty Affairs committee was scheduled for Tuesday, 10/20 at 9 am in the same location.*

8. Other Business.

*H. Tavossi reiterates his desire for the committee to investigate the recent reduction in force. K. Adams suggested adding finalization and approval of the sick-leave report to the agenda for the next committee meeting and completing that charge. A. Rieger asked committee members to conduct email discussion of the sick-leave report in preparation for the next meeting.*

*10:25 am: Meeting adjourned.*

*Respectfully submitted: Eric Howington*

*These minutes were approved by the committee at the 10/20/15 meeting.*