

**SEC/VPAA JOINT CONFERENCE
MINUTES**

April 14, 2009
2:30 pm

Senate Conference Room
140 McFall Center

Present: Keith Bernhard, Alden Craddock, Jim Evans, Mark Gromko, Emmanuel Guillory, Nancy Orel, Peter Pinto, Roger Schupp, Ron Shields, Ellen Williams, Rich Hebein

CHAIR'S REPORT

Vice Chair Shields called the meeting to order.

NEW BUSINESS

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Gromko announced that the name had been changed from the Department of Communications Disorders.

General Education Review

Gromko announced Associate Provost Cathy Cardwell would lead the effort and that she would meet with Com/Com shortly to discuss the charge and composition of the committee. He said that he had proposed to offer a stipend of \$1500 to members of the committee to work over the summer, but there were objections. He said they also considered course releases or a professional development fund to the individual members. Shields suggested a development fund to support the work of the committee.

Provost Search

Gromko pointed out that Orel was on the committee, which had already received fifty nominations and forty-two applications. The committee will meet next on May 5 to screen applications and on May 21 and 22 to hold airport interviews. They hope to bring the finalists to campus in early June.

Enrollment Management

Gromko said the consultant Noel-Levitz had been very helpful in adjusting aid to student needs. He said that we would probably spend less money on scholarships but spend it more strategically. He said that summer and fall registrations were up but that the change to PeopleSoft has allowed more students to register early so that comparison with last year's figures was not necessarily conclusive. Freshmen and transfer applications are down slightly from last year as is the admit rate and the housing deposit rate. He said that the financial aid packages were being sent out later this year. He said that the Faculty Welcome Calling program was very effective. Pinto asked about national trends; Gromko said that the two-year campuses were doing better. Evans asked about the student loan market; Gromko said that there was an adverse effect but that it was hard to sort out all the components individually. Bernhard said that chancellor Fingerhut had said that the increases in Pell Grants would benefit the two-year campuses.

Flexible Tenure Policy

Senate passed this policy on November 4, and the Provost subsequently raised concerns. SEC agreed not to transmit the policy to the President and the Board as is customary until the Provost sends the concerns to the Flexible Tenure Leave Committee, which had proposed the policy. If the concerns resulted in substantive changes to the policy, it would go back to Senate for approval. If the concerns were only editorial, the secretary would proceed with transmittal. Craddock, chair of the committee, distributed a point-by-point answer to the Provost's concerns. Hebein asked if there were any substantive changes to the policy as Senate passed it; Craddock said no.

Discussion focused on Concern #8, which was about adding a safeguard to avoid awarding tenure *de facto* in connection with the application of the Flexible Tenure Policy. That is, the *Charter* says that employing a faculty member for more than seven years constituted an award of tenure [B-I.C 2.b)(1)(a), p. 5/9: University Policy on Faculty Appointment and Tenure, Tenure Track Faculty, Probationary]. In their response, the FTLC urged the

Amendments and Bylaws Committee to clarify *Charter* language by supporting the following amendment to the cite above:

The total period of probationary service on a tenure track appointment to the faculty shall be not more than seven years for an ~~Instructor~~, an Assistant Professor, and an Associate professor *unless an interruption to the probationary service has been granted by the Provost.*

Gromko said that he supported the amendment but said that he would like the opportunity to review the *Charter* for any other places that should be clarified in connection with this. SEC agreed to give him the time to do so. SEC also said that any Charter amendments would go to Senate but that the policy itself would not since Senate had already passed it. The secretary would then transmit the policy and any amendments to the President and the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Shields thanked Gromko, adjourned the meeting and asked SEC to remain.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Hebein, Secretary