

FSAC Committee Meeting Minutes, 3/13/03

Present: E. Stanny (Chair), B. Houghton, W. Poe, S. Heft, S. Cabaniss, C. Freund, V. Lea (Recorder), Jackie Bowman (Student observer)

One item was added to the agenda. Sue Hayes requests that FSAC consider who should vote for URTP. Should eligibility include lecturers?

The agenda was then approved.

The minutes from the last meeting were not yet available.

The minutes of 1/30/03 were approved with a slight change. The spelling of the name, "Ontiveros" was corrected as written in these minutes.

Chair's report

- Elizabeth Stanny said there was now a possibility that she could remain chair if assigned time for the position were available.

Judith Hunt's Report

- Representing Judith Hunt, Bill Houghton told the committee that there was no report.

Jackie Bowman, student observer, then challenged the minutes of 1/30/03. After a discussion, Jackie's agreed to leave the minutes as written as it was pointed out that her query had been with a draft version of the minutes. Before leaving the meeting at 1:40 PM, Jackie also challenged the standing rules of order used by FSAC.

Modify Grade Appeals Policy:

- Elizabeth Stanny pointed out the changes to the Grade Appeals policy that she had made as a result of FSAC deliberations.
- Sandy Heft moved that the committee accept the amended policy. Virginia Lea seconded the motion. The amendments were accepted unanimously.

The committee moved to Item 3.

Recognizing Recipients of "Excellence in Teaching" Awards:

A discussion ensued about how to recognize recipients of the "Excellence in Teaching Awards."

- Laurel Holmstrom and Noel Byrne had suggested that the recipient give a talk at the emeritus dinner. After discussion, the committee rejected this idea.
- Bill Poe told the committee that one idea was to honor the recipient by placing her/his photo on a wall in the Shulz library. Sandy Heft said that she would check out this possibility. The photo could be framed by a professional photographer.

- In response to the idea of recognizing the recipient at graduation, it was pointed out that this already occurs.
- A press release concerning the award is already included in Insights.

Eligibility to vote for URTP:

A discussion followed about which members of the faculty should be eligible to vote for URTP:

- Bill Houghton pointed out that there was nothing in the URTP policy stating that lecturers were not eligible to vote.
- Laurel Holmstrom brought the constitution to the committee.
- It was noted that only tenured faculty might serve on the URTP committee.
- However, all members of the faculty, tenured, tenure track and lecturers may currently vote in elections for the URTP committee.
- If lecturers are to be made ineligible to vote, the constitution needs to be amended.

The matter was tabled for a future meeting.

Role of lecturers in GE and EMT program:

Art Warmoth said that it was the perspective of EPC and the GE subcommittee that SSU develop a more coherent freshman year experience that guarantees that students develop academic competence. In this context:

- Since lecturers are taking a major responsibility for curriculum design in the GE and EMT programs, the university might be well served to use them in curriculum design.
- This raises faculty affairs questions. Is this where faculty want to go? Is the situation covered by contract? Should lecturers' current responsibilities be acknowledged? Should there be incentives for tenure track faculty to get involved with in EMT and GE programs? Are faculty members other than those in the Philosophy department competent to teach Critical Thinking?

Art Warmoth invited FSAC members to consider some of the ideas as to how EMT might be organized in the future. The steering committee had met 3/12/03 and discussed different models:

1. EMT and English join to develop the freshman seminar.
2. EMT be attached to departments and the freshman seminar be taught by tenure track/tenured faculty.
3. Freshmen Interest Groups (FIG).

Art Warmoth pointed out that when EMT was conceived, it was envisaged that it include long-term mentoring, and vertical integration (at least one tenure track faculty member per GE course).

The following points were then made by the committee:

- There is an assessment of EMT on the SSU website.
- In some departments, faculty members are encouraged to participate in EMT (Math for example). However, it is not generally in the interest of departments to have their faculty teach outside of their departments or their schools.

- Bill Poe talked about a shift towards tenured and tenure track faculty teaching more lower division students to ensure that the lower division is more interdisciplinary in character and that students receive a quality liberal arts/science education.

In conclusion, Art Warmoth reiterated that EPC and GE had set up a committee to improve the quality of the freshman experience. His purpose in coming to FSAC was to see if faculty affairs were associated with this curriculum issue. While he agreed that there was not enough integration, he was not proposing anything in particular.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.