

Academic Senate General Meeting
Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Announcements, Reports

1. Pearls of Power Conference: Vivienne McClendon and Vineeta Dillon

POP coordinators ask faculty to attend and encourage students to attend. Coordinators are interested in finding new ways to incorporate the conference into other campus activities.

Some sessions will include male cadets.

Will faculty please excuse female cadets from class the Friday afternoon of the conference.

2. Corps Officers selection: Palin Wycoff

The process has changed, as cadets looking for more transparent process with more faculty input.

Top four commanders selected in the middle of January, followed by company leadership, with interviews the final week of January. Finally, all new leaders will be involved in picking division leadership, interviews third week of February.

How would faculty like to be involved? Recommending individual names? Participating on interview panels? Or have opportunity to offer objections to particular candidates?

Please email Palin with preferences and suggestions.

What is latest stance on allowing 5th-year cadets to serve? Answer: Most likely they won't be allowed to serve. What about transfer students on "victory lap"? : Not sure, will run by group.

3. Statewide Senate Meeting: Steve Browne

Chancellor is cautiously optimistic about budget in light of Prop 30 passing.

Proposed 120 unit cap; CO wants Legislature to make it maximum not minimum in Title V. Looking for unit reduction plan to take effect Fall 2014, and give Chancellor opportunity to reach into high unit programs and eliminate specific classes. This is a proposal to be considered this week by Board of Trustees

Exemption will likely be available to license programs.

Senate voted to oppose higher fees for students taking more than 17 units and repeated courses. Governor asked board to take this off the agenda and they have.

Opinions solicited on proposal to ban all tobacco products on all campuses. This is a faculty idea. The UC campuses have recently banned smoking products. Post comments on Moodle forum.

Opinion solicited on state university grants (SUGs). Now, 33% of tuition fees go towards fees for low-income students. Almost half of all CSU students do not pay fees. This practice is controversial. The Statewide Senate will vote on proposal to eliminate SUGs. Please send comments to Steve or Julie, or post to Moodle forum.

Discussion Items

1. All-course evaluation requirement

Faculty voted to ask President Cropper to waive this, so the Executive Committee is soliciting ideas for a minimum suggested number of courses/sections. Should evaluation requirements be different for (PT/FT) lecturers, probationary and tenured faculty members? What about different kinds of courses: boat/sim/online/traditional?

Comments:

Go back to 2 sections per year minimum.

It is to the advantage of pre-tenure faculty to evaluate every course. It is a tremendous waste of time and money for post-tenure faculty to evaluate every course.

I've been evaluating almost every class for fourteen years. It's not a nightmare. It may be too stringent to require every class. Faculty could use a little leeway.

SUMMAs are only one measure of teaching effectiveness.

The faculty member and chair should agree upon how many classes should be evaluated.

Need more clarity on weight of teaching evaluation in RTP decisions.

Students at Executive Committee meeting said they want to evaluate instructors. If they only get to evaluate 1-2, they feel cheated.

Students also said that evaluating every class might cause evaluation fatigue.

It's not the number that matters as much as doing a representative sample. Maybe it does come down to consulting with the Chair. We do have an obligation to be evaluated, and not just in our favorite class with our three favorite students.

We need to educate students that evaluations have a big impact on whether a teacher gets tenure is critical. Students don't realize this.

With the right tool, I don't have a problem evaluating more classes.

What is purpose of evaluations? To improve teaching or as a tool for RTP? If the former, there is value in doing all classes.

Director of Faculty Affairs: SUMMAs are used for both purposes given above.

Some students DO know how SUMMAs are used and want to use them to retaliate against faculty they don't like.

ME Department evaluates all classes for ABET accreditation. Studies have shown SUMMAs should not be used to determine tenure.

Chair: There is a forum posted on Moodle on this topic. Please add your comments if you did not have a chance to speak.

2. Faculty Retreat

The retreat is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 8. The Executive Committee is soliciting ideas for the retreat: Workload? Shared governance? Technology? Morale? Location? Please post comments on Moodle forum.