Faculty Welfare Committee

Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2012
2:00 pm, Jewish Studies Center 3rd floor conference room

Present: Simon Lewis, John Crotts, Margaret Hagood, Todd McNerney, Hector Qirko, Michelle VanParys, Allison Welch

1. Visit from John Inman, Amy Orr and Ashley Parr from the Staff Advisory Committee
   a. Child care – They have received comments from staff about the need for additional childcare convenient to campus, especially for children under 2 years of age. From the staff perspective, year-round daycare would be more appealing than a schedule, like ECDC’s, which is tied to the academic calendar. Current FWC members recalled that in 2007-8, the Faculty Welfare Committee conducted a childcare survey, and that the school of Education has been involved in discussions on this topic in the past. Margaret Hagood and John Inman made plans to meet with Fran Welch, Dean of the School of Ed, to learn about the status of this issue from the School’s perspective. Another suggestion was to form a working group of faculty, staff and students to investigate what other universities have done to address faculty/staff childcare and to work with the administration to pursue additional childcare options here, if the administration is open to such pursuit.
   b. Adjunct issues – Another area of mutual concern is adjunct issues. Some staff members also serve as adjuncts (and those staff adjuncts are also concerned about the treatment of fellow adjuncts generally). Our adjunct subcommittee will follow up to identify members of their committee to coordinate future efforts.
   c. Other issues – The Staff Advisory Committee has also discussed a desire for student health services to be expanded to provide simple medical services for staff; as the facility is currently funded entirely from student fees, this would require a different financial model. They are also interested in making sure that faculty and staff will have access to the new fitness facility that is being put into the new dorm.

2. Campus sexual assault case – The campus sexual assault case that was recently brought to light by the Post and Courier was discussed. While issues of student safety and student conduct are outside the purview of our committee, we are deeply concerned as faculty both about the well-being of our students and about potential damage to the College’s reputation. In particular, we note the perception of a conflict of interest with the College leading the investigation of a criminal sexual assault on campus.

3. Letter of concern – A draft version of a letter to Academic Affairs/President’s Office was discussed. Committee members are asked to read and comment on the draft by December 5th so that it can be signed at our next meeting on December 10th. Communicating the letter as a report to the Faculty Senate was also discussed, in order to circulate the issues more widely.

Submitted by: Allison Welch, 12/3/2012