Faculty Advisory Committee to the President
Friday, October 29th, 2010, 2-3pm
MINUTES

Members Present: President George Benson, Cara Delay, M. Scott Harris, Edward Hart, Melissa Hughes (Chair), Morgan Koerner (Secretary), Larry Krasnoff, Celeste Lacroix, Clifton Peacock, Susan Rozzi, Heather Tierney

Also in attendance: Elizabeth Jurisish (sitting in for Bob Mignone), Brian McGee, Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor to the President

Agenda Items:

1. Tuition, budget and the state response

Update on Budgetary Concerns
- The President described the move by the State Budget and Control Board to freeze all capital building projects of Universities that do not roll back their tuition increases to 7%. He explained how this decision inordinately affects the College of Charleston and the Citadel because their tuition rates were considerably lower than other state institutions.
- The President updated the Committee on the Board of Trustees’ October meeting; at the meeting the Board decided to wait until November to make a decision on how to respond to Budget and Control Board.
- The President and the Chief of Staff discussed the timeframe for making a decision on how to respond to the Budget and Control Board. They noted that it would be important for the Board of Trustees to make a decision by the middle of November. Brian McGee informed the Committee that it would take an enormous effort by the billing staff to make a change to tuition billing for all of the College’s students.
- The President discussed the strong need for the College to gain flexibility from State regulation and control.
- The Committee inquired about the status of the merit raises that were to be announced in October. The president responded that the merit raise decisions are on hold until the Board of Trustees decides on how to respond to the Budget and Control Board. He indicated that there will be raises, but that they may not be as much as originally expected.

2. Modification of Duties Policy/Procedure
- The President reported that Alison Piepmeier has met with him to discuss inconsistencies in the application of the College’s guidelines for modification of duties. The President agreed that there should not be much variation from department to department in the application of the policy.
- The President discussed a plan to collect data on this issue via a survey of faculty.
• The Committee informed the President that the issue is negatively affecting morale and retention, particularly of young faculty.
• The Committee noted that one of the main problems is that the policy is too open-ended and that it can be interpreted in different ways.
• The President responded that he is aware of the issue and would like to see a quick resolution.

3. Faculty Input on Administrative Personnel Decisions
   • The Committee suggested that the College provide a formal way for faculty to provide feedback on administration of the different service departments at the College.
   • The President responded that such a system could be created and would be helpful on both sides. He would like to hear more about the service departments’ overall performance from the perspective of faculty.
   • The Committee remarked that it would also be useful for students to have a way to provide feedback on the service departments. In particular, this might have been helpful with the problems with My Charleston.

4. Consequences to Faculty of Policy on Alcohol and Illicit Drug Testing
   • The Committee highlighted unintended consequences for faculty resulting from the new policy on Alcohol and Illicit Drug Testing, including the definition of “safety sensitive and high risk position” (which has been interpreted to include all faculty who go on field trips), and the definition of “supervisors” (which has been interpreted to include all faculty who hire work-study students).
   • The President noted that the interpretation of particular aspects of the policy may need further consideration.

The Next FAC Meeting is scheduled for November 17th at 10am.

Morgan Koerner
FAC Secretary
2010/11