Faculty Welfare Committee
Meeting Minutes: September 28, 2017

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:00PM in Maybank 209

Committee Members in attendance: Emily Beck (Chair), Keonya Booker, Stephen Della Lana, Mary Jo Fairchild, Phyllis Jestice, Martin Jones, Myra Whittemore, and Jen Wright

Agenda:

1. Secretary/Minutes from last meeting
2. Review minutes from Faculty Advisory Committee to the President (FACP) on 9/19/17
3. FWC representative for the Adjunct oversight committee
4. Assessment at CofC – problems and solutions?
5. Bridge program
6. Flagging statement (and other potential statements)
7. Smoking enforcement on campus
8. Adjunct advocacy
9. FWC email address: create an initial survey, maintenance, and where to announce?
10. Next meeting date and time: will Thursday, 10/26 from 3-4 work for you?
11. Faculty Bathrooms
12. Other old business?
13. Other New business?

Discussion of agenda items:

1. Secretary/Minutes from last meeting

   Since this meeting time conflicted with Richard’s teaching schedule, we will postpone approval of minutes until next meeting.

2. Report about and review minutes from Faculty Advisory Committee to the President (FACP) on 9/19/17

   We used those minutes as a jumping off point to discuss issues that concerned committee members and as a basis by which to consider responses to the President’s comments:

   The President mentioned a push for online courses:
   There are consistent problems with OAKS that do not make it an ideal delivery system.
   Not enough spaces in the DE certification program for all interested faculty.
   Not enough lecture capture rooms.
We can’t compete with Stanford and other online courses. Does online actually save us money? It would be helpful if upper administration could communicate the actual numbers of students and the economic impact to the College and explain why Distance Education is the way the institution is going.

President mentioned the possibility for Doctoral Programs with local need
If making sure we do not miss out on local niches is our concern, then one niche we should be concerned with is Clemson and USC nipping at our heels.

When will they appoint a new Graduate school Dean?

President expressed strong interest in the creation of new Interdisciplinary Programs
Several committee members pointed out that there are too many Interdisciplinary Programs already; many of which have low enrollments or no consistent student participation.
Perhaps we could consider including a sunset clause to new interdisciplinary programs, to require that they must demonstrate value and consistent student interest within 5 years.

Several pointed out that a serious problem with the idea to create new programs is the lack of assistance and encouragement with the creation of new programs and modification of existing programs
Several mentioned their positive experiences in proposing new programs to CHE versus the unsupportive reaction they received from Upper Administration at Randolph Hall

For example, the QEP – is an interdisciplinary initiative that is stifled with red tape. $500 compensation takes 10 months to receive. Mired down in bureaucracy that is not imposed elsewhere (CHE wants to work with us and is helpful).

We discussed the issue of low morale and possible ways to respond to that dimension
Low morale is related to compensation but is also due to lack of support from Randolph Hall.
Listserv??? We want it back
Censorship
Yammer is not effective

Assessment burden on program directors and chairs
Punitive/condescending directives sent from Upper administration with unrealistic timelines to completion. Has created undue stress and unfair labor conditions.

Assessment provides no useful data
Makes faculty feel like there is an inimical relationship with Randolph Hall

Suggested questions to propose to FACP for next meeting in November:

What steps will you take and what timeline will you adopt to implement greater enforcement of the no smoking policy on campus?

Emily invited committee members to suggest additional questions via email

3. FWC representative for the new Ad hoc Adjunct Oversight Committee

Phyllis Jestice will serve

Due to time constraints, we did not get to these agenda issues:
4. Assessment at CofC – problems and solutions?
5. Bridge program
6. Flagging statement (and other potential statements)
7. Smoking enforcement on campus
8. Adjunct advocacy
9. FWC email address: create an initial survey, maintenance, and where to announce?
10. Faculty Bathrooms
11. Other old business?
12. Other New business?

Meeting Adjourned: 3:58 pm

Next Meeting: scheduled for October 24, 2017 from 3-4pm in Maybank 209