

Faculty Senate Meeting Summary Notes (tentative)
11am, Manderino Room 408
11/8/18

Present: Jana Bonifini, Peter Cormas, Peter Heh, Laura Tuennerman representative for Cassandra Kuba , Mario Majcen, Robert Mehalik, Louise Nicholson, Loring Prest, Kristen Schaffner, Paul Sible, Ryan Sittler, Mathilda Spencer, JP Staszal, Robin Weaver, Jamie Weary, Ellen West.

Call to Order

1. Review/Approval of 10-18-18 Summary Notes

Old Business (if time permits)

2. **Faculty Website** – no new updates
3. **Orientation for New Faculty** – no new updates
4. **Faculty Senate By-Laws** – no new updates, by laws are posted on the faculty Senate website.
5. **Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report** - Deferred
6. **Faculty Senate Mission Statement Proposal & Subcommittee*** - Ad hoc committee formed. Sign-up list distributed. Subcommittee will refine the proposed mission statement and bring back for Faculty Senate approval.
7. **Faculty Senate Proposed Schedule Change Subcommittee*** - Sign-up distributed to those interested in working with Dan Engstrom to further explore the idea of a 4-day week for class and designated meeting day.

New Business

8. **Guest speaker – Dr. Len Colelli (Associate Provost & Associate VP for Academic Affairs)** *Note*: Dr. Colelli will be addressing the university wide assessment committees and the upcoming Middle States visit.

Previously middle states awarded a 10-year accreditation period and required a midpoint (5 year) report half way through the accreditation period. There has been a change, now the maximum accreditation period will be 8 years with no midpoint report needed. Rather, annual updates will be required. This is a

Department of Education expectation. The focus will be quality improvement. Organizations/universities will be expected to complete annual evaluations, identify area(s) of weakness, strengths, and innovation. When areas of opportunity are identified, organizations are to put into place a plan for improvement years and gather data years 1, 2, and 3 by year 4 trend data will be expected, trend data will be expected every year going forward.

Another change, there used to be 14 standards for middle states, now there are 7 standards.

Standard I: Mission & Goals

Standard II: Ethics & Integrity

Standard III: Design & Delivery of the Student Learning

Standard IV: Support of the Student Experience

Standard V: Educational Effectiveness Assessment

Standard VI: Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement

Standard VII: Governance, Leadership, and Administration

Len Colelli was most interested in meeting with the faculty senate today to address the middle states standard VII, criterion #5: Periodic assessment of the effectiveness of governance, leadership, and administration. The Faculty Senate is well-positioned to assist in providing feedback for this criterion. Specifically, Faculty Senate can provide input regarding shared governance.

During the last accreditation, one of the areas for improvement identified was the implementation of a shared governance model. In response, a shared governance model was implemented which utilized forums for communication. This plan was accepted, and various forums were created. However, the forums did not communicate their findings well, and have since been discontinued. It was determined that the Forums should have been implemented in a more effective manner. The university administration now recognizes this weakness and desires to develop another plan to better implement shared governance within the university.

Len was pleased to hear of the plan to develop/refine the mission statement for the Faculty Senate which aligns with the University's mission. This supports the guidelines offered from the accrediting agency which requires that all departments/programs need a mission statement and that this statement align with the mission of the university. Additionally, Middle States requires that alignment of the mission occurs everywhere, and not just within academics. CalU had 250 academic programs, and a spreadsheet was developed to track which areas have submitted requested assessment documentation and which areas have not. The assessment process instituted within CalU requires programs to determine in April areas of needed improvement. Administration is investigating purchasing software which can assist with the assessment process. Each program should be identifying what students should be able to do when completing a specific program. Again, trend data is imperative.

Len distributed a document describing the shared governance model adopted by CalU. Len will send this document electronically to ensure everyone has a copy after the meeting. Len clarified that shared governance, as interpreted by CalU administration includes “shared discussion not shared decision making”. Administration is interested in improving processes to engage in discussion so that informed decisions can be made. Len requested that Faculty Senate assess the shared governance process in order to identify areas of opportunity for improvements. It was discussed that it would be beneficial to include at least one person from the original shared governance task force who could provide the historical background of the process and the intent of the shared governance plan. Additionally, this subcommittee of the Senate should work in collaboration with Bruce Barnhart, Provost, as he has been tasked to be in charge of the shared governance component of the evaluation process. Also, Len offered three examples of improvement plans (improvement of shared governance) from three other institutions.

Finally, Len provided an update on other schools within the state system. Cheyney is in its second year of warning from Middle States. If their plan for improvement is not accepted the school will be shut down. All faculty at Cheyney were served retrenchment letters in preparation for hearing the outcome of the assessment.

Kutztown was put on warning based on their most recent assessment. They have 2 years to get off of warning status.

Middle States wants to support schools; however, they must see incremental improvements. CalU has chosen to adopt a minimalist approach for Middle States preparation, which Middle States considers an acceptable approach. Further, Middle States defines programs as majors, minors, concentrations, & certificates. Academic affairs, student affairs, administration and strategic planning must be tied to the budget.

If it is determined that students are not successful in a particular area, then we must we must ask the question, “what can we do better?”

9. Next meeting: December 6th

Announcements

Adjournment: 12:05 pm

Robin Weaver
Recorder