

CFS Governance Council Meeting
June 3rd, 2008
10:00 -11:30 AM
MHC 1329

Attending Members: Rene Anderson, Sharon Denninger, Sandra Dwinell, Kathleen Ferreira, Robert Friedman, Heather George, Michael Greeson, Ruby Joseph, Ray Miltenberger, Don Policella, Janis Prince Inniss
Norín Dollard, Tim Weil (representatives of the FMHI Faculty Council)

Absent Members: Shirley Baer

Guest: Mario Hernandez

Call to order: The meeting of the CFS Governance Council was called to order by Kathleen Ferreira, Chair.

Introduction: Heather George, who was unable to attend the first meeting of the council, was introduced and welcomed.

Agenda Review: Agenda items were reviewed and approved. No additional items were added.

Conduct of meetings: Robert's Rules of Order was approved and adopted for the meeting structure. Our Department Chair, Mario Hernandez, has agreed to authorize the purchase of books for each Council member. The book should be passed on when the Council member's term is up.

Review of minutes: The May 13, 2008 meeting minutes were distributed and approved. Minutes will be posted on the website at a later date.

Mario Hernandez – Report:

Mario spoke to the group about the current budget situation including an update from the Provost's office. The proposal of recommended cuts submitted by CFS has not been confirmed at this point. The AMH program is at risk of being disintegrated. The FMHI Faculty Council is working on a proposal to respond to the university's suggested changes for that program.

With regard to the realignment process, Rehabilitation Counseling will likely become part of the "new college" currently being established (that will include FMHI). Some support positions in Rehab Counseling have been cut, but it is uncertain if we will be able to fill vacant positions, including those being vacated by retiring faculty. The Criminology Department will take a faculty vote to decide whether or not to join FMHI.

To date, the USF budget cuts have totaled twelve percent. We are anticipating another six percent before January 1st, 2009 and an additional six percent after the first of the year. The CFS current cuts have been made through vacant line positions. It is possible that any vacated positions might disappear.

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Mario stated that, at this point, we are in worse shape from cuts by the state than we are university budget cuts. One program cut included thirty-six staff positions totaling \$186,000 in buyouts which will affect rollover accounts (R.O.'s). He said that this will impact our availability of funds to cover future cuts. Mario advised that Cindy Stark is working on a procedure to manage buyouts on an institute level. Dean Gonzales has been working with Karen Holbrook to differentiate Research R.O.'s, now called R.I.'s, from Division R.O.'s. We use our R.O.'s for buyouts and operating expenses. This agreement will allow us to continue to operate the way we've been doing business.

Ray Miltenberger asked about a policy for using leave so that there isn't a backlog of accrued time. Mario responded that it is currently being reviewed and that they are seeking a fair balance. Any suggested changes would need to take into account the collective bargaining agreement.

Mario will meet with the CFS Leadership Council at 2 pm today to discuss the status of the budget. Kathleen will represent the Council at this meeting and will report back at the next meeting. Mario encouraged the Council members to continue advocacy for the department and Institute via active participation on university committees around campus. He stressed the importance of transparency within the Divisions and the importance of this council's connection to the FMHI Faculty Council.

Bob Friedman reminded the group that our role is to be ambassadors to the department. He said that although there are systemic issues, there remains a very strong core of support and we need to relay that message to the department. He said that so far we have emerged better from this cut than we've fared in University history. Previously, FMHI was treated differentially.

New Business:

Faculty Committee - We need a subgroup of this committee to work on Assigned Faculty Duties. Catherine Batsche will need to do a presentation for this group on the AFD's soon so that the group can have input into the procedure. Norin Dollard encouraged the committee to talk to Marion Becker who is handling AFD's at the Institute level. Bob Friedman, Heather George, Ray Miltenberger, and Ruby Joseph agreed to be on this committee. We will schedule a meeting for Catherine Batsche's presentation and will invite all CFS faculty to attend.

Non-Faculty Staff Committee – The group agreed on the formation of a committee to represent A&P and USPS staff, as well as OPS staff that do not have representation at this council. Don Policella, Michael Greeson, and Sandra Dwinell agreed to serve on this committee.

Governance Council Website – Sharon Denninger agreed to serve on this committee and will work with Jonathan Wilson on creating a web page for this group.

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Governance Document Update – The council agreed to table the creation of a committee to revise the governance document until the Fall.

CFS Leadership Meeting – The Council agreed that Sharon will serve as the alternate for Kathleen at these meetings when Kathleen is unable to attend. The report back from the Leadership Team meeting will be a standing item on our agenda. We will also include a standing item for an update from the FMHI Faculty Council by Norín and/or Tim Weil.

Reminders/Announcements:

Meeting schedule – Kathleen suggested we meet monthly until the Fall since there are pertinent issues we need to actively address. The group agreed that a standing meeting date would be more helpful. A meeting on the first Wednesday of each month worked with most people's schedules. Janis Prince Inniss will not be able to attend the next meeting, but the time slot should be okay going forward. The next meeting will be held on July 2nd at 10 am. Kathleen will confirm the location.

Proposed items for next month's agenda include the formation of a CFS board of advisors and advocacy with state entities, per Mario's suggestions. Kathleen will coordinate with the FMHI Faculty Council (via Norín) regarding a response to the university regarding AMH.

The Communications Division will provide the note-taker and snacks for the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.