

Rogers State University

Faculty Senate Minutes

September 4, 2009

The RSU Faculty Senate held a meeting September 4, 2009, at 1:15 p.m. in the Board Room of the Student Union.

MEMBERS present were Paul Hatley (Chair), Sally Emmons (Secretary), Mary Mackie (Treasurer), Phil Sample, Terry Sutton, Don Glass, Kevin Woller, Mike McKeon, Frank Grabowski, Susan Chinburg, David Blakely, Rich Ronan, Min Soe, Jan Ferris

MEMBERS absent were William Hart, MaryRose Hart

VISITORS: Dr. Jim Ford, Director of the Honors Program, Dr. Steve Housel, Chair, University Assessment Committee, Mr. Denny Schmickle, Ms. Katie Navarro, President, Student Government Association, Ms. Renee Morse-Heenan, Senator, Student Government Association

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

RSU Health Insurance: Jim Ford recently served on an ad hoc committee with Tom Volturo and Mark Meadors to investigate possible changes to health insurance coverage at RSU, given the recent announcement that OSEEGIB rates will increase by 7.9% in 2010-2011. After research and discussion, the committee recommended two actions: that RSU adopt Blue Cross Blue Shield as its health care provider and that President Rice request from the Board of Regents the authority to select a service provider for RSU employees. Ford explained to members of the Faculty Senate that the vice presidents at all other regional universities in Oklahoma have requested this same course of action. BCBS will be cheaper for most RSU employees, especially when spouses and dependents are also covered. In addition, BCBS has agreed that RSU employees can “opt out” from its plan if proof of other insurance is provided and that it will not deny coverage due to pre-existing conditions (though this may change in subsequent years).

University Assessment: Steve Housel explained to members of the Faculty Senate that the University Assessment Committee is attempting to make its assessment process more user-friendly. He also pointed out that the Assessment Committee will be assessing three areas: academic programs/majors; general education courses; and, development studies courses.

Salary and Terminal Degrees: Prior to this topic being discussed at today’s meeting, a Senator expressed concern that university student observers were being allowed access to private and sensitive faculty information. Members of the Faculty Senate discussed this concern but were reminded that Faculty Senate meetings are open, including to students.

Speaking on behalf of Denny Schmickle, David Blakely explained that faculty is a major resource for the university; thus, it has “value.” Schmickle has compiled facts comparing pay scale at RSU and other regional universities. This data indicates that there is a disparity in pay scale between terminal degrees at RSU and that all faculty, regardless of the degree held, is generally being paid less than what is evident at other regional universities. Consequently, the data indicates that the “value” of faculty at RSU is well under average. In general, MFA faculty at RSU receive \$7000.00 less per year when compared to MFA faculty at other regional universities; faculty with Ph.D.’s at RSU receive approximately \$5000.00 less per year than faculty with Ph.D.’s at other regional universities. This disparity in pay scale may contribute to lower faculty retention.

Motion: After discussion, members of the Faculty Senate moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that Denny Schmickle draft a resolution to send to Dr. Richard Beck concerning MFA pay parity at RSU when compared to other regional institutions. This memo will be drafted in October and will be voted upon by members of the Faculty Senate by email.

Motion: After discussion, members of the Faculty Senate moved, seconded, and unanimously approved recommending to RSU administration that a Faculty Senate representative be involved in budgetary discussions.

Student Speeding and Reckless Driving: It has been observed by members of the Faculty Senate that reckless driving and speeding on campus has increased, leading to an unsafe campus life for students, faculty, and staff.

Motion: After discussion, members of the Faculty Senate moved, seconded, and unanimously approved writing a memo to Dr. Richard Beck about campus safety issues, including possible solutions.

Enrollment: The extended enrollment period undermines student success at RSU because students are allowed to enroll in classes after significant chunks of coursework have already been covered, making it difficult for most students to get caught up.

Motion: After discussion, members of the Faculty Senate moved, seconded, and unanimously approved recommending to Dr. Richard Beck that the drop/add period and extended enrollment period be limited to the first full week of classes at RSU.

Promotion: The Faculty Senate has learned that recently a faculty member was approved for a promotion after serving only four years on campus rather than the required five years. More information about this is desired. If the current promotion policy has defacto changed, how can other faculty on campus take advance of this change?

Motion: After discussion, members of the Faculty Senate moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that the Chair of the Faculty Senate should discuss this issue with Dr. Richard Beck and find out what the current promotion policy actually is.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be October 1, 2009, at 1:15 p.m. in the Board Room of the Student Center.

SUBMITTED BY Sally Emmons, Secretary **APPROVED** October 2, 2009

ATTACHMENTS TO MINUTES

TO: Dr. Richard Beck, Vice President, Rogers State University
FROM: Paul Hatley, Chair, Rogers State University Faculty Senate
DATE: September 30, 2009
SUBJECT: Faculty Representation on Budget Meetings

Last year, the Faculty Senate requested that one of its members be allowed to listen in on, and contribute to, budgetary discussions. This request was denied by RSU administration because the budgetary process was already in motion. We are at the start of a new academic year and the Faculty Senate once again recommends allowing a Faculty Senate representative to listen in on, and contribute to, this year's budgetary discussions, so that faculty interests are represented at these meetings.

TO: Dr. Richard Beck, Vice President, Rogers State University
FROM: Paul Hatley, Chair, Rogers State University Faculty Senate
DATE: September 30, 2009
SUBJECT: Campus Safety

The Faculty Senate strongly believes that campus safety is compromised due to an observed increase in the amount of reckless driving and speeding which is occurring on campus due in part to increased enrollment. Many faculty report being nearly hit by drivers when they are walking to class; students have also reported the same. In addition, two cats have been run over (and killed) on campus drives just in the first few weeks of the fall semester. Members of the Faculty Senate would like to see the RSU administration take action to increase the safety of faculty, students and staff on campus. Possible solutions include: repainting the pedestrian crosswalks; installing new crosswalks (specifically at Mosier and University); installing new stop signs; installing more speed limit signs; reinstalling speed bumps at the three entry points of the campus and at the Child Development Center; and, a greater police presence during peak hours of campus life.

TO: Dr. Richard Beck, Vice President, Rogers State University
FROM: Paul Hatley, Chair, Rogers State University Faculty Senate
DATE: September 30, 2009
SUBJECT: Extended Enrollment

Members of the Faculty Senate strongly urge the RSU administration to limit the enrollment period at RSU to the first full week of classes so that student success and retention can be greater. When a student is allowed to enroll late in a class due to Extended Enrollment policies, that student's potential success in that class is often jeopardized. In some classes, it will be next-to-impossible for the student to catch up on coursework, reading, and basic concepts. Limiting enrollment to the first full week of classes will increase student success and retention at RSU.

Rogers State University

Faculty Senate Minutes

October 2, 2009

The RSU Faculty Senate held a meeting October 2, 2009, at 1:15 p.m. in the Board Room of the Student Union.

MEMBERS present were Paul Hatley (Chair), Sally Emmons (Secretary), Mary Mackie (Treasurer), Phil Sample, Terry Sutton, Don Glass, Kevin Woller, Mike McKeon, Frank Grabowski, David Blakely, Rich Ronan, Min Soe, Jan Ferris, William Hart, MaryRose Hart

MEMBERS absent were Terry Sutton, Susan Chinburg

VISITORS: Dr. Susan Payne, Ms. LaTonya Pate, RSU Bookstore, Mr. Gary Webb, President, Student Broadcasting Association, Ms. Renee Morse-Heenan, SGA Representative

OLD BUSINESS

Student Workers in Markham Hall: Student workers are being limited in their use in vital university services. There are currently no student workers in the Registrar's Office, two student workers in Enrollment, and three student workers in Financial Aid. All student workers will either have or will undergo training.

Faculty Senate Open to Observers: Faculty Senate meetings are open to all RSU faculty but other observers may attend only when they are invited. The Chair of the Faculty Senate will query Richard Beck about the Open Meeting Act and whether this act is applicable to campus meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

Recycling Bins: There is currently no recycling of materials at RSU. The Student Broadcasting Association hopes to change this by spearheading an initiative to start plastic and aluminum recycling on the Claremore campus. Rogers County Recycling Center has agreed to collect the recyclables if the SBA can raise enough financial support to purchase 8 recycling bins. Currently, the SBA has received money from several student organizations and groups on campus, including the Bookstore, the President's Leadership class, the RSU Campus Activities Team, the Biology and Psychology Clubs, Psi Chi National Honor Society, Alpha Sigma Alpha, and Alpha Sigma Tau. This support is enough to purchase 6 of the 8 bins. The SBA requests financial help from the Faculty Senate.

Motion: After discussion, members of the Faculty Senate moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that Senators will query their faculty as to whether they are interested in using Faculty Association money to fund either one or two of the recycling bins for the Claremore campus. Each bin will cost 127.50 and there is currently approximately \$416.00 in the treasury.

Textbook Orders: Beginning July 1, 2010, the Higher Education Act will require all colleges to post textbook orders online 30 days before early enrollment so that this information is available to students. RSU is taking a proactive approach by implementing this bill prior to the mandated start date. This explains why textbooks order for the spring semester were due to department offices two weeks earlier than in the past.

Academic Progress Check: Student athletes are required to sign a FERPA. The grade check system has been revised so that the process is streamlined for faculty. Twice a semester Jarod Hood will send all faculty a packet containing grade check forms for all student athletes. Faculty will have a week to fill out the forms and return them. Dr. Beck supports this revised process and OU Legal has okayed the process and the form. Soon, fraternities and sororities will have required grade checks too.

Motion: After discussion, members of the Faculty Senate moved, seconded, and unanimously approved the institution of this new grade check process and form.

Financial Savings from the Geo-Thermal System: Several faculty raised concerns about the effectiveness of the new geo-thermal system in place on the Claremore campus. Specifically of concern is whether the system is working properly in Prep Hall where the classrooms are consistently either too hot or too cold (Baird Hall was also mentioned). This hinders the ability of students and faculty to function effectively and also is not conducive to the educational process.

Motion: After discussion, members of the Faculty Senate moved, seconded, and unanimously approved asking administration for information about the geo-thermal system, including: How much did the system cost? How much money is being saved monthly versus the initial projections? If money is being saved, where is this money going? Why doesn't the system work in some buildings?

Paper Allotment for Students: The SGA is concerned that students are no longer receiving the support they should receive from RSU because their paper allotment has been cut, making it difficult for some students to print off necessary class information when needed. The SGA would like for more RSU faculty to allow students to turn in material electronically and to allow laptops to be used in classes. The SGA would also like for the paper allotment to be raised.

Motion: After discussion, members of the Faculty Senate moved, seconded, and unanimously approved having Senators return to their departments to discuss this problem and what reasonable measures can/should be taken.

Fee for Athletic Events: Allowing students and faculty to attend athletic events for free is a financial drain on the university. It is suspected that the university would not have a financial crisis if the athletic department brought in revenue from games. In addition, it was reported that Mark Meadors told a Senator that any post season games are not in the athletic budget; thus, the university must "find" the money in the budget for these games when necessary.

Motion: After discussion, members of the Faculty Senate moved, seconded, and unanimously approved their support that athletic events should charge a fee for attendance.

Faculty Association Meeting: The next Faculty Association meeting will be December 4, 2009, at 1:15 p.m. On the agenda will be faculty dues.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be November 6, 2009, at 1:15 p.m. in the Board Room of the Student Center.

SUBMITTED BY Sally Emmons, Secretary **APPROVED** November 6, 2009

Attachments

TO: Dr. Richard Beck, Vice President, Rogers State University
FROM: Paul Hatley, Chair, Rogers State University Faculty Senate
DATE: November 4, 2009
SUBJECT: Effectiveness of the Geo-Thermal System

Several faculty have raised concerns about the effectiveness of the new geo-thermal system in place on the Claremore campus. Specifically of concern is whether the system is working properly in Prep Hall where the classrooms are consistently either too hot or too cold (Baird Hall was also mentioned). This hinders the ability of students and faculty to function effectively and also is not conducive to the educational process. The Faculty Senate would like information about how much the system cost, how much money is being saved monthly versus the initial projections, where this money is going, and why the system does not appear to work as well in some buildings.

TO: Dr. Richard Beck, Vice President, Rogers State University
FROM: Paul Hatley, Chair, Rogers State University Faculty Senate
DATE: November 4, 2009
SUBJECT: Fee for Athletic Events

Allowing students and faculty to attend athletic events for free is a financial drain on the university. Members of the Faculty Senate believe that the university might not have a financial crisis if the athletic department brought in revenue from games. Specifically, there is concern that post season games are not included in athletic budgets. This means that the university must "find" money in other budgets to pay for any after season games. The Faculty Senate strongly supports charging fees for faculty and students to attend athletic events so that revenue is generated.

Rogers State University

Faculty Senate Minutes

November 6, 2009

The RSU Faculty Senate held a meeting November 6, 2009, at 1:15 p.m. in the Board Room of the Student Union.

MEMBERS present were Paul Hatley (Chair), Sally Emmons (Secretary), Mary Mackie (Treasurer), Phil Sample, Terry Sutton, Don Glass, Mike McKeon, Frank Grabowski, Min Soe, Jan Ferris, William Hart, MaryRose Hart, Susan Chinburg

MEMBERS absent were Kevin Woller, David Blakely, Rich Ronan

VISITORS: Mr. Tom Volturo, Executive Vice President for Administration and Finance

VISITOR'S BUSINESS

Tom Volturo came to the Faculty Senate today to update members on a variety of campus issues:

- *Campus Safety:* the Faculty Senate has recently expressed concern that walking conditions are dangerous on campus given the amount of campus speeding. Soon, speed bumps will be installed on campus to address this concern. Lynn Szopinski will be working closely with the Campus Police Department and a Faculty Senate representative (Frank Grabowski) to determine the best placement for these speed bumps.
- *Geo Thermal System:* RSU spent approximately 6 million dollars to install the new geo thermal system that is operating on campus. As a result, utility and maintenance costs have lowered; this money is being used to pay for the geo thermal equipment.
- *Baird Hall:* Baird Hall construction is currently one-and-a-half months behind schedule. The exterior of the building is almost finished but RSU will still need 3 million additional dollars to pay for the interior renovation of the building. To date, President Rice has only raised \$500,000 dollars of the needed amount. If the additional money is not raised, the building's completion will be put on hold. Assuming that the money can be located, RSU intends to award a contract in December and hopes that Baird Hall will reopen in August 2010.
- *Budget Hearings:* The Faculty Senate would like for one of its members to sit in on budget meetings. Tom Volturo prefers for a faculty member to meet periodically with him or with a small committee rather than attend each of the budget meetings. Motion: After discussion, members of the Faculty Senate moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that senator Terry Sutton will serve as the Faculty Senate liaison for budget discussions.
- *State of the University:* Tom Volturo explained that RSU's ENG1 budget is of concern to him because the university has recently been told by the state that it will have a deficit of approximately \$60,000 dollars per month. The university administration must now determine how to make up for this shortfall. No options have been decided, but several options have been considered, including: furloughs, early retirement, combining positions (of administrative assistants), eliminating marginal programs, cutting fringe benefits (i.e., putting a cap on health insurance, reducing the retirement benefits of some employees from the negotiated 15% to the 4% that most receive). He explained that all options are on the table at this point but that the "day of reckoning will come soon." He said that all functions on this campus are important and delivering bad news is unpleasant for all involved. Other institutions have suffered more than RSU because our summer and fall enrollments were up. Despite

this, RSU is dipping into its reserves to take care of some state cuts and President Rice will need to make an important budgetary decision soon.

OLD BUSINESS

Recycling Bins: Members of the Faculty Association voted to use part of the Faculty Senate's treasury to purchase two recycling bins for the Claremore campus. Now, there is approximately \$89.00 left in the treasury.

Turnitin.com: This issue is being tabled for now because there is no money available to fund purchasing this software for faculty use.

Student Paper Allotments: Students currently receive 500 sheets of paper per semester for printing purposes in the computer labs on campus. Brian Reeves said that significant paper wasting is occurring and that ACS will not increase the allocation. Students do have the option to purchase an additional paper allotment from the Bursar, but this price will cover the cost of the paper, the cost of the printer ink, and wear and tear on the machine.

Salary Pay for Terminal Master's Degree Faculty: Richard Beck has expressed that he has no problem rectifying the salary disparity between the terminal degrees on campus, but the interested parties have not yet sent the necessary paperwork forward.

NEW BUSINESS

Advisement: There is a continued problem with advising on campus with some faculty carrying large advising loads and others with few advisees assigned to them. This leads to an inequality among the faculty. In addition, many students are self-advising and others receive poor advice from other students. There is no known solution to the problem of advising as of now, but this issue needs to continue to be discussed.

Faculty Association Meeting: The next Faculty Association meeting will be December 4, 2009, at 1:15 p.m. in 135 Health Sciences. On the agenda will be faculty dues.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be December 4, 2009, following the 1:15 p.m. Faculty Association meeting in 135 Health Sciences.

SUBMITTED BY Sally Emmons, Secretary

APPROVED November 17, 2009

Rogers State University

Faculty Senate Minutes

December 4, 2009

The RSU Faculty Senate held a meeting December 4, 2009, immediately following the Faculty Association meeting at 1:15 p.m. in room 135 of the Health Sciences building.

MEMBERS present were Paul Hatley (Chair), Sally Emmons (Secretary), Mary Mackie (Treasurer), Terry Sutton, Don Glass, Mike McKeon, Frank Grabowski, Min Soe, William Hart, MaryRose Hart, Susan Chinburg, Kevin Woller, Rich Ronan

MEMBERS absent were Sally Emmons (absent for Faculty Senate meeting), David Blakely, Phil Sample, Jan Ferris

Faculty Association Meeting

VISITORS: Dr. Larry Rice, President, Dr. Richard Beck, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Mr. Tom Volturo, Executive Vice President for Administration and Finance, Jessica Heaven, Counseling Coordinator

VISITOR'S BUSINESS

Jessica Heaven explained college students experience a great deal of depression and wants to train interested faculty on how to identify and respond to depressed students. She intends to offer a training program called "Mental Health First Aid" on campus in spring 2010. This is a 12 hour training course which covers depression, psychosis, anxiety, non-suicidal self-harm, substance abuse, eating disorders, and post traumatic stress. The course will be limited to 25 participants and will include a \$12.00 cost (for the manual).

Dr. Larry Rice was invited by the Faculty Senate to address the Faculty Association. His discussion focused upon budget concerns. RSU has been hit hard by budget cuts but Dr. Rice cautioned against panic. The administration is working hard to make sure that salary cuts, layoffs and furloughs are not necessary. If the budget situation continues to deteriorate, possible response measures include suspending for at least a year supplemental retirement payments (Dr. Rice favors this), early retirement, and faculty teaching one more class per semester. More information will be available after the Dec. 21, 2009, meeting with the state legislature.

Dr. Richard Beck advised that the Add/Drop period at RSU will change in fall 2010. Students will be allowed to add/drop courses during the first five days of class; during the next five days students may drop courses only. Academic Council is currently discussing whether to change the last day for course withdrawals.

Faculty Association Discussion Points

1. Can the IDEA Evaluations occur later in the semester? Paul Hatley will discuss this possibility with Linda Andrews.
2. How many faculty use "clickers" in their classrooms? Bill Hart will discuss how to implement this technology in the classroom for anyone who is interested.
3. It was moved and seconded that faculty can voluntary pay \$5 annual dues to the Faculty Association.
4. Should Senate officers be subject to term limits? After discussion, the Faculty Association decided not to amend the Faculty Constitution.

Faculty Senate Meeting: 2:43-2:58 p.m.

There were no agenda items for the meeting but two issues were raised:

1. The Faculty Senate would like to meet with Linda Andrews regarding the IDEA Evaluation system to address concerns with this system (especially for online courses).
2. The Faculty Senate would like to meet with Gary Nodine regarding campus e-mail issues.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be January 15, 2010, at 1:15 p.m. in the Board Room of the Centennial Center.

SUBMITTED BY Sally Emmons, Secretary

APPROVED January 15, 2010

Rogers State University

Faculty Senate Minutes

January 15, 2010

The RSU Faculty Senate held a meeting January 15, 2010, in the Board Room of the Centennial Center.

MEMBERS present were Paul Hatley (Chair), Sally Emmons (Secretary), Mary Mackie (Treasurer), Terry Sutton, Don Glass, Frank Grabowski, William Hart, MaryRose Hart, Susan Chinburg, Kevin Woller, Rich Ronan, Phil Sample, Jan Ferris, Juliet Evusa for David Blakely

MEMBERS absent were Mike McKeon, Min Soe

VISITORS: Linda Andrews, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment, B.J. Armstrong (cancelled visit)

VISITOR'S BUSINESS

Linda Andrews presented a power-point summarizing the findings of the new course evaluation system. In fall 2009, 96% of the evaluation packets distributed to faculty were returned. The total cost for the system in fall 2009 was \$4278.03. RSU's evaluations were above the comparison group. Faculty cited the facilities, student lack of preparation, and student lack of enthusiasm as the negative qualities impacting learning in their classes. In contrast, faculty cited desire to teach courses, teaching experience, and control over course management decisions as positive factors. All fall courses were evaluated, though there was a "pitiful" response rate for online courses. In spring 2010, the only courses that will be evaluated are those taught by full or part-time faculty teaching at RSU for less than a year, courses that were not taught in fall 2009, and special requests from faculty who would like their courses to be evaluated. The estimated cost for spring is \$2518.10.

NEW BUSINESS

Attempted Hours Evaluation Form: the Financial Aid Office is generating a new form which faculty advisors must complete in order for advisees to continue receiving financial aid. It is not clear why this form is being sent to faculty advisors rather than to the Registrar.

Motion: After discussion, members of the Faculty Senate moved, seconded, and approved asking David Barron to visit the Faculty Senate to discuss the Attempted Hours Evaluation Form.

Statistical Analysis Software: Some faculty and students need statistical analysis software in order to conduct their research. It would be helpful for RSU to expand its 50 seat license to be a 250 seat license for SPSS. Motion tabled.

Budget Crisis: Faculty is concerned about the budget crisis and how it may impact students, staff, and faculty. After discussion, the Faculty Senate formed a sub-committee of four members that will write a letter to the administration expressing this concern and a desire that any cuts be shared unilaterally across campus.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be February 5, 2010, at 1:15 p.m. in the Board Room of the Centennial Center. **SUBMITTED BY** Sally Emmons, Secretary **APPROVED** February 5, 2010

Rogers State University

Faculty Senate Minutes

February 5, 2010

The RSU Faculty Senate held a meeting February 5, 2010, in the Board Room of the Centennial Center.

MEMBERS present were Paul Hatley (Chair), Sally Emmons (Secretary), Mary Mackie (Treasurer), Terry Sutton, Don Glass, Frank Grabowski, William Hart, MaryRose Hart, Vadym Kyrylov for Susan Chinburg and Rich Ronan, Kevin Woller, Phil Sample, Jan Ferris, David Blakely

MEMBERS absent were Min Soe

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Crisis: The sub-committee presented Faculty Senate members with a memo draft regarding the budget crisis and addressed to Larry Rice. There was much discussion regarding the content of the memo and about whether campus faculty as a whole should offer input prior to a Faculty Senate vote.

Motion: After discussion, members of the Faculty Senate moved, seconded, and approved holding the memo in abeyance until today's 2:00 p.m. Budget Crisis meeting in the Centennial Center ballroom.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed RSU Campus Public Safety Citation Increases: Campus police would like support of the Faculty Senate on its request to raise safety violation citations. This would be done to improve public safety on campus.

Motion: After discussion, members of the Faculty Senate moved, seconded, and unanimously approved supporting campus police in raising the rates on public safety citations.

Mandatory National Incident Management System Training: Larry Rice will soon be informing faculty that they must complete a three-hour online training course on homeland security. Federal funding may be withheld if 100% participation is not secured.

Defibrillators for RSU Police: the SGA would like for campus police to have defibrillators for emergency situations and requested Faculty Senate support on this issue. Currently, there are five defibrillators on the Claremore campus; four are located in the Athletic Department and one is located in the Health Science building.

Motion: After discussion, members of the Faculty Senate moved, seconded, and unanimously approved allowing RSU police to carry defibrillators in police cars with proper training.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be February 12, 2010, at 1:15 p.m. in the Board Room of the Centennial Center. At this time, members of the Faculty Senate will vote on whether the budget crisis memo should be sent to Larry Rice.

SUBMITTED BY Sally Emmons, Secretary. **APPROVED** March 5, 2010

Attachments

TO: Dr. Richard Beck, VPAA, Rogers State University
FROM: Paul Hatley, Chair
DATE: February 5, 2010
SUBJECT: Proposed RSU Campus Public Safety Citation Increases

Members of the Faculty Senate unanimously approved allowing RSU police to raise citation costs in order to improve campus public safety.

TO: Dr. Richard Beck, VPAA, Rogers State University
FROM: Paul Hatley, Chair
DATE: February 5, 2010
SUBJECT: Defibrillators for RSU Police

Members of the Faculty Senate unanimously approved allowing RSU police to carry defibrillators in police cars as long as the personnel are properly trained on how to use the equipment.

Rogers State University

Faculty Senate Minutes

March 5, 2010

The RSU Faculty Senate held a meeting March 5, 2010, in the Board Room of the Centennial Center.

MEMBERS present were Paul Hatley (Chair), Sally Emmons (Secretary), Mary Mackie (Treasurer), Terry Sutton, Don Glass, Frank Grabowski, William Hart, Rich Ronan, Kevin Woller, Jan Ferris, David Blakely, Min Soe

MEMBERS absent were MaryRose Hart, Susan Chinburg, Phil Sample

VISITOR Steve Housel

OLD BUSINESS

There is no update on any old business items.

NEW BUSINESS

Standardized Achievement Tests for Gen Ed Courses: The university administration is considering adopting standardized testing for all gen ed courses so that RSU can become a member of the VSA (Voluntary System of Accountability). The testing will examine basic skills such as critical thinking and reading level; it will not be content specific. The Assessment Committee has been asked by Linda Andrews to recommend one test of three available options. Students will be randomly tested, once as a freshman and then as a senior. The cost to join the VSA is approximately \$1500 and there are significant costs to administer the tests. Department heads and deans were evidently unaware of this move towards standardized tests and their input hasn't been solicited by the administration.

Members of the Faculty Senate raised several concerns after learning about this topic: why should RSU adopt standardized testing? What, if any, are the benefits of joining the VSA? Is there funding for this testing given the current budget crisis? Why were faculty, department heads, and deans not asked for input regarding standardized testing? The Chair of the Faculty Senate will request a meeting with Linda Andrews to clarify some of these concerns.

Proposed Change to Required Admissions Paperwork: Some students who transfer in to RSU with 24 hours are not required to turn in a high school transcript. Thus, they may not have enough history hours to graduate but this may not be identified until a degree check before graduation.

Motion: After discussion, members of the Faculty Senate moved, seconded, and unanimously approved requesting that all RSU students submit high school transcripts to Admissions and that these transcripts be examined for academic deficiencies by the Registrar's office upon receipt of them.

NCAA Status for RSU Athletics: Wren Baker and Larry Rice are organizing a committee of faculty and at least one student to examine the feasibility of RSU moving from NAIA to NCAA division II status. In order for this to occur, it is known that one more sports team will be needed. What are the benefits of the school doing this? The NCAA will provide funding for championship games; the number of scholarships RSU is required to pay will

be reduced; the rules will be enforced by NCAA compliance officer; and, there will be heightened educational requirements for recruits. Discussions regarding the possibility of changing conference status are in the preliminary stage.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be April 9, 2010 at 1:15 p.m. in the Board Room of the Centennial Center.

SUBMITTED BY Sally Emmons, Secretary

APPROVED April 9, 2010

Attachments

TO: Dr. Richard Beck, VPAA, Rogers State University
FROM: Paul Hatley, Chair
DATE: March 6, 2010
SUBJECT: Proposed Changes to Required Admissions Paperwork

After discussion, members of the Faculty Senate moved, seconded, and unanimously approved requesting that all RSU students submit high school transcripts to the Admissions Office and that these transcripts be examined for academic deficiencies by the Registrar's office upon receipt of them. This will prevent students from learning right before graduation that they have academic deficiencies, an issue that is increasingly occurring.

Rogers State University

Faculty Senate Minutes

April 9, 2010

The RSU Faculty Senate held a meeting April 9, 2010, in the Board Room of the Centennial Center.

MEMBERS present were Paul Hatley (Chair), Sally Emmons (Secretary), Mary Mackie (Treasurer), Terry Sutton, Don Glass, Frank Grabowski, William Hart, Rich Ronan, Kevin Woller, Jan Ferris, David Blakely, Mike McKeon

MEMBERS absent were MaryRose Hart, Susan Chinburg, Phil Sample, Min Soe

OLD BUSINESS

NCAA Status for RSU Athletics: A general discussion of the benefits and drawbacks of the university requesting NCAA—Division II status occurred. The university committee tasked to examine this issue will convene soon to make a recommendation to the administration.

NEW BUSINESS

Using Adjuncts vs. Hiring New Faculty: RSU will face re-accreditation in 2014. Since our last accreditation period the number of adjuncts being used to teach introductory courses has increased exponentially. While there are many good adjunct instructors at RSU, there are also some poor adjuncts instructing the students. This is of concern to members of the Faculty Senate, as is how RSU's large dependence on adjunct teaching may impact re-accreditation.

Motion: After discussion, members of the Faculty Senate moved, seconded, and unanimously approved creating an ad hoc committee to write a memo requesting that more one-year appointments be hired in lieu of adjunct instructors.

Tenure Results in *Hillpost*: A recent tenure applicant learned of his/her tenure status by reading an edition of the *Hillpost*. It is of concern that the applicant learned about the tenure status in the RSU newspaper rather than by being notified by Meyer Hall. Some clarification about the tenure process and how candidates are notified regarding their tenure application status is needed.

Faculty Senate Election: The current officers of the Faculty Senate will complete their service at the end of this semester. Senators need to ask their faculty whether they are interested in serving as the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Parliamentarian, or Treasurer of the Faculty Senate. If so, their names need to be submitted to the Faculty Senate secretary no later than April 14, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. so a ballot can be created for the next Faculty Association meeting.

Faculty Association Meeting: The next meeting of the Faculty Association will be April 30, 2010 at 1:15 p.m. in 135 Health Sciences. Faculty Senate elections will occur at this meeting.

NEXT MEETING The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be April 30, 2010 immediately following the Faculty Association meeting at 1:15 p.m. in 135 Health Sciences. **SUBMITTED BY** Sally Emmons, Secretary.

APPROVED April 30, 2010