

CCRI Faculty Association/NEARI
Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 29, 2007
Knight Campus

Attendees: Karen J. Allen, Joseph Garvey, L.Codega, Donald Paquet, Tom Keefe, Dave Critchett, Kim Crealey Rouillier, Renée Anderson, Donna J. Medas Patton, David Kaplan, Joslin Leasca, Pranab Banerjee, Jeanette Wooley, Steve Forleo, Ramona Skelly, Tony Rashid, Deb Lilli, Nick Sevigny, Susan Sienkiewicz, John Mowry, Susie Swenson.

(I think more attended but their names were not on the attendance sheet)

Video conference room attendees:

Providence: Richard Tessier and Christine Fox

Lincoln ?

Newport ?

Executive Committee President, Marjorie Norquist called the meeting to order at 2:35 pm

- The committed accepted the agenda
- The committee approved the minutes from 10/25/07

Reports

A. President Norquist's Report

- Board of Governors meeting minutes were received 11/28. They will be copied and distributed to members of the executive committee.
- BOG meeting Monday December 3 at the Office of Higher Ed. in Providence.
- Decisions on tenure have been postponed until the January meeting, but it is not clear why. Lela Morgan and everyone here got the information to the board on time, yet Higher Ed. is deferring decisions until January.
- Bill Squizzero is out sick, so he won't be reporting today.

B. Vice President Garvey's Report

- A faculty member in the art department has filed a grievance because he was technically denied two three credit courses as overloads. Jeanette Wooley and Joe Garvey will file a grievance on his behalf.
- Overloads are being discussed at negotiating committee meetings. Garvey is planning on meeting with Carl Toft.
 - VP Bob Shea's response to the grievance regarding the nursing salary increase.
 - \$100,000 came from unfilled positions
 - \$150,000 came from the nursing salary equity pool

- VP Bob Shea's response to the gated parking lot was copied and distributed to the committee
 - Grievance request:
 - Not be used against faculty
 - Wipe out the records every day
 - Shea stated that it will not be used to track faculty and parking lot data will be erased on a rolling seven day calendar.
 - Garvey is still unsure of the rationale behind purchasing the gate.
- Another nursing department grievance has come up and is being considered.

Forleo asks to open discussion on Shea's response to the gated lot grievance

- Critchett stated that this is another example of administration not notifying faculty prior to making changes.
- Kaplan stated we should have anonymous cards to get through the gate
- Banerjee stated that we should just use the ID with the barcode like URI does and wonders what we have to hide.
- Forleo responds that "hiding" is not the issue. The problem is that we weren't told.
- Norquist stated that Shea had said they were going to fix the gate, but did not mention anything about it being connected to a database.
- Banerjee said this information was revealed at a chairs' meeting, and chairs should have informed their departments.
- Rashid said RIC does not have an armed parking lot.
- Sevigny thought Shea said this gate was a security issue.
- Wooley said Shea didn't really have an answer for the security issue when asked
- Paquet stated that it doesn't provide security. It can't prevent tag- a-longs. He witnessed people following other cars into the lot and passing through because the arm doesn't come down fast enough. Additionally, the barcode is a "distraction" and the information comes from a chip imbedded in the ID card.
- The gate identifies the time you come in and the time you leave.
- Paquet stated that the gated system doesn't work because of pass throughs. They should dismantle the system and tag cars. It is a waste of money.

Critchett moves that the gated lot grievance be continued and taken to the BOG.

Seconded by Paquet

Further Discussion

- Critchett says discussing the gate at a chairs' meeting three months prior to its installation is too late because the administration had been discussing this issue for three years.
- Paquet wants the system dismantled.
- Wooley said the administration said we asked for the gate. Paquet said no one asked for a gate; faculty just wanted cars to be tagged.
- Fox stated we should have anonymous cards for the gated lot.
- Paquet questioned the administration's priorities. He says they want this and they will find money for what they want to do.

A motion was put on the table that favors taking the grievance to the Board of Governors. The grievance would request that the armed lot mechanism be dismantled.

Motion to go forward with grievance voted on:

8 for

12 against

Motion failed.

- Garvey's report on the status of contract negotiations
 - Garvey stated that it seems like the contract offer will be presented by the end of December 2007.
 - No layoffs will occur for the duration of our contract

C. Political Action Report: Forleo

Lifelong Learning's threat to community colleges

- Non-profit organizations receive grants for lifelong learning.
- LLL is a threat to us.

"Helicopter Parents"

- California's answer to being overrun by the cliché "helicopter parents" is to offer orientations for parents in California to explain FERPA laws.
- Forleo proposed this idea to President Di Pasquale and Ron Schertz. Parents need to know what they can and cannot do.

True Outcomes Software purchased by BOG

- BOG looking to standardize all three institutions
- They are looking for outcomes and assessment
- \$150,000 spent for three years

D. VP for Higher Ed: Tessier

- NE Regional conference is in January
- Information on this conference will be distributed meeting on 12/13.

E. CCRIFA Scholarship

- NEARI not willing to pay fees to establish corporate status

F. Committees:

- a. Sub-committee on union representation: Critchett
 - Allen sent emails to the faculty association directing everyone to print out surveys, put them in an envelope and sign them by 12/6. Critchett will report the results at the next meeting

Old Business

- A. Lilli's motion requesting that President Di Pasquale have three chairs and three faculty members elected by the faculty for the committee to search for the Dean of Arts and Sciences was approved.

21 approved the motion (unanimous)

B. Assessment and Outcomes Software

- True Outcomes Software has been purchased
- Lilli stated that this assessment and outcomes software should have been brought to the executive committee first, not to department chairs
- Peggie Mackie was paid \$400,000 dollars to teach departments how to write outcomes into the curriculum
- Board of Governor's needs to explain this purchase because it clearly impacts our working conditions
 - Sub-committee formed to take this issue to Di Pasquale and find out what the plan is for the True Outcomes Software. Forleo, Lilli, Banerjee, Rouillier, and Norquist will report their findings to the executive committee.
 - Rouillier states that a software program cannot truly measure the success of a program
 - Only looking at the curriculum is not seeing the whole picture

C. Adjunct Contracts

- Garvey stated that VP Morgan has presented an adjunct contract to be considered
- Whitfield said they feel this contract is necessary to fire adjuncts
- Debate about who has the authority to fire. Chairs? Administration?
- Adjunct contract needs to be put on the next agenda.
- Lilli wants to address union representation for the adjuncts at the next Executive committee meeting.

Meeting Adjourned