Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the USAO Faculty Association

Tuesday, April 6, 2010

Signed in as present:


I. Call to order by President, Dr. Steve Weber at 11:04am.

- Meeting time moved to 11:00am because of the overlap of the Minerva Awards Luncheon.

II. Approval of Minutes.

- Minutes of the 3/02/10 regular meeting of the USAO Faculty Association were delivered electronically on 4/02/10. (On 3/31/10, minutes were posted on the Faculty Association page of the USAO website.) A correction to the minutes was noted, to indicate N. Osborn in attendance at the March meeting. With this correction, a motion by A. Todd to accept the minutes was passed without objection.

III. Treasurer’s Report

- C. Elder announces: the balance of account is $482.71.
- 6 plaques were ordered. Two divisions have more than one distinguished graduate. Dr. Weber reads the names of those being honored.
- Treasurer’s report is accepted.
IV. Regent’s Report

- S. Weber announces that the next meeting of the Regents will be next Tuesday. On April 21st, the USAO Regents meet with the State Regents. We discuss the significance of our Regents being invited to this meeting.

V. Committee Reports

- Monday Meeting of The President’s Executive Council: No report.
- Resources Committee: No report.
- Ceremonies Committee: will meet again in June. All is “on target” for planning matriculation/convocation.
- Tenure and Promotion: J. Miller reports that the committee work is complete for this year.
- Handbook Committee: L. Hester arrives in time to report that the Chair Council is discussing the handbook. It is his impression that the Vice President for Academic Affairs wishes to be more active in this process.
- IDS Committee: J. Long reports that this committee is not meeting.
- Distinctiveness/Academic Rigor: No report.
- Faculty Advisory Council: No report.
- Faculty Development: A. Todd reports upcoming classes in CPR and First Aid being offered. He asks for input on choosing a date for these. General consensus is that he should set the times (must be on Saturdays) and contact those who have expressed interest.
- Arts and Ideas Festival: S. Weber discusses the evolving nature of this Festival and invites participation from the faculty. A planning meeting in March recognized the need to expand the centerpiece of each festival beyond music to “ideas” which can be addressed through multiple disciplines.
• Committee 16: Work should conclude this week in a six-hour meeting called for Wednesday afternoon/evening. Recommendations will go to the President. “The faculty is being well-represented.”

• Curriculum Committee: E. Guzik presents one proposal for curriculum changes. All were approved on a department and division level. All were approved by the curriculum committee.
  
  o Photography and Graphic Design: Revision of Photography Minor from 25 to 23 Hours; Course Title Changes for Beginning Photo I/II and Intermediate Photo I/II; Add Digital Photography I to courses accepted for IDS Artistic Expression Credit; motion to accept all changes as a slate; vote on motion to accept as a slate: approved 38-0-0; motion to accept slate of changes to curriculum: approved 38-0-0.

VI. Old Business

• S. Weber reviews the slate of nominees for 2010-2011 Faculty Association Executive Council. Nominations from the floor are invited. A unanimous vote without objection elected officers for next year:
  
  ▪ Dr. Craig Elder – President
  
  ▪ Dr. J.C. Casey – Vice President/President Elect
  
  ▪ Dr. Jeanette Loutsch - Secretary

VII. New Business

• S. Weber opens the floor for discussion of items to be noted and added to the agenda for future meetings:
  
  o Several faculty members object to the overall design of the Prospective Student page on the website. The target audience for the design is not representative of the type of student we seek to recruit. It seems childish. “The font looks like crayon drawings.” “There are girls in bikinis.” There is a decided lack of academic emphasis. There is discussion about how many clicks it actually takes for a prospective student to find information about programs.
W. Ferrell brings up a concern about the number of days that student athletes are missing in her classes. Others acknowledge this as a problem. Some baseball players ask to be “on the field” by 10am on days with afternoon games. This does not reflect an emphasis on “scholar athletes.” In the past, all coaches were aware of the policy in the student handbook, which makes the student responsible for making up work in advance when missing class to represent the college. However, our email has been flooded recently with permission requests for students involved in athletics and other campus events. Dr. Johnson agrees to open this discussion again with coaches, et al.

Z. Simpson notes that scheduling Droverstock on a Thursday results in students missing class on both Thursday and Friday. This in conjunction with other events scheduled on TTH (symposia, etc) results in the loss of a full week of classes for TTH classes in the spring. Discussion proposes moving Droverstock to Friday.

J. Loutsch opens discussion about the online course evaluations. Most faculty members were under the impression that this trimester’s evaluations would be done online. Some thought that enrollment for the fall was going to be online. We add this to a list of items to address.

S. Breerwood asks about sending group email to students in your classes. If students sign up for Turnitin.com this is easily accomplished, but to do so otherwise requires help from Lynn Boyce.

VIII. Announcements

- Congratulations to Mike Mather who is retiring. Thanks for all of your service and Best of Luck!
- Choir Concert 3/6 in Alumni Chapel.
- Autism Workshop on Wednesday.
- Pinker Symposium on Thursday.
- Plant Sale ongoing to benefit Relay for Life – see J. Loutsch
• Donate to Relay for Life to buy a “piece of Mike Mather’s Memoriblia”
• Directing Class One-Acts on 4/15 and 4/16 at 7pm in Davis Hall Theater
• BFA Show still open in the Gallery

IX. The standing motion to adjourn by K. Lamar was adopted - adjournment at 11:56am.

Respectfully Submitted,

K. Davis