Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the USAO Faculty Association

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Signed in as present:


I. Call to order by President, Dr. Steve Weber at 11:13am.

II. Approval of Minutes.

- Minutes of the 1/12/10 special meeting of the USAO Faculty Association were delivered electronically on 1/28/10 (on 1/20/09 minutes were posted on the Faculty Association page of the USAO website). Without correction or amendment, a motion by C. Daniel to approve was adopted.

III. Treasurer’s Report

- C. Elder announces: the balance of account is $566.71.
- Treasurer’s report is accepted.
- The charges for the “perpetual plaque” have cleared.

IV. Regent’s Report

- S. Weber announces: “I am compiling a list of your ongoing concerns and your accomplishments to present to the Regents next week. If you have
not already done so, but would like to add to either of those lists, please let me know by this Friday."

V. Committee Reports

- There is some general discussion about the lack of accomplishment on a committee level. There is a consensus about having little time, much to do, and little motivation for long-term projects in light of the financial worries this year has presented.

- Monday Meeting of The President’s Executive Council

  o C. Elder reports that the most significant announcement of the President’s meeting was the announcement of Bill Smith’s retirement and the hire of Dex Marble as the Assistant to the President.

  o There is discussion about the 2/1/10 Memo from Dr. Feaver.

  o Some faculty members re-articulate a desire to know more about the rationale for new hires/replacement of positions.

  o It is the general impression that the current plan is to continue “business as usual” in terms of services and operations until this becomes impossible. This is currently being achieved by sustained salary and benefit cuts. Many are anxious to talk about the timeline for restoring lost wages and benefits.

- Resources Committee

  o S. Weber notes that this committee has submitted its report to the President and has no immediate plan to meet again.

- Convocation/Commencement Committee: No Report.

- Tenure and Promotion: Materials have been submitted. This committee will meet at the pleasure of the Vice President this spring.

- Handbook Committee: Not meeting.

- IDS Committee: J. Long reports that the committee has not met since/while Jeanne Mather has been unavailable.
• Curriculum Committee: No report. N. Warden asks about some education changes that were submitted. E. Guzik reports that he has not received them. All are advised to consider the March Faculty Association meeting the deadline for curriculum changes to be considered this year.

• Distinctiveness/Academic Rigor: D. Reigh reports that some progress had been made, but work has slowed on the process of developing syllabi to implement the research/cultural endorsements. Committee will meet again next year.

• Faculty Advisory Council: No report. N. Osborn is no longer the representative to this organization. USAO has no faculty representative. This position is open.

VI. New Business

• S. Weber asks to discuss the “good news” of New Business out of the standard order of the meeting.

• S. Weber discusses the new web pages being provided for faculty to publish program and course information online. Go to www.usao.edu/home/professionals to find a menu of names. Contact Cody Dracars for login and password assistance. The purpose for these pages is to provide information for prospective students and to serve as a paperless resource for sharing information with current students. Training sessions will be announced by the Public Media Office.

• S. Weber announces that the University wants to establish an honorary degree program. Faculty Association has been invited to be part of this process. S. Weber opens discussion about this. Comments:
  - What will our vote matter?
  - At least we will be in the loop.
  - Who do we want to honor?
  - Should this be the work of a standing Faculty Association Committee?
  - S. Weber suggests that the Tenure and Promotion Committee has already been organized to handle review of qualifications, etc. He proposes to the assembly that this committee be prepared to participate in the honorary degree
process when individuals are nominated. There is no objection to this delegation.

- S. Weber announces that a slate of nominees for the 2010-11 Faculty Association Executive Council be proposed at the March Faculty Association Meeting. He proposes that a vote on the slate of nominees be the business of the April Faculty Association Meeting. J.C. Casey volunteers to chair a nominating committee charged with the task of contacting nominees.

VII. Old Business

- S. Weber updates the faculty on the progress of “Committee 16.” Discussion includes:
  - What is the rationale for the lists of questions being asked?
  - Why aren’t annual reports and program reviews being used for discovery about programs and operations?
  - Many faculty members disagree with the numbers generated showing budget and credit hour production. Particularly, IDS hours are not being shown in credit hours for faculty members.
  - K. Davis explains the need for discovery questions to provide “benefit” information for programs and operations that do not generate a definable revenue.

VIII. Announcements

- S. Weber announces that there will be a campus visit from NASM for Music Accreditation on March 1\textsuperscript{st}-2\textsuperscript{nd}.
IX. A motion to adjourn made by K. Lamar was adopted - adjournment at 11:56am.

Respectfully Submitted,

K. Davis