Minutes of the USAO Faculty Association
Tuesday, 4 October 2011

Signed in as present:


I. Call to Order by President, Nancy Osborn, at 11:07 am.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the 9/6/11 regular meeting of the USAO Faculty Association were delivered electronically by S. Rees on 9/26/11. A motion to approve the September 2011 minutes made by D. Reigh, seconded by A. Karjala, and passed.

III. Treasurer’s Report

K. Crow announces a balance of $787.57. Members are kindly reminded to pay dues for the current year.

IV. Association welcomes Joe Evans, Director of Enrollment, to provide information about online enrollment and summer advising for new freshmen:

- Company with which USAO contracted eight years ago for campus management software currently being sued for breach of contract
- USAO implementing upgraded version of Poise System
- Order of services rollout will be Payroll, Admissions, Academic Records, the latter scheduled for activation February 2012
- Functions include advisor access to student records, online enrollment, online grade submissions

J. Evans responds to question about possibility of implementing a plus/minus option in the new grading system: Grade scales are mandated by the state and thus cannot be changed without legislation.

Question about when students will be able to access online grade reports: J. Evans assures this will be regulated.

Further discussion of the “pluses and minuses” of plus/minus grading scales.
V. N. Osborn reports on meeting with VPAA:

- Administration still committed to restoring faculty salaries to pre-furlough levels when budget allows
- Final exams schedule is being addressed by the VPAA’s office
- Enrollment management committee is meeting this week and VPAA will ask them to consider problems with orientation class requirements for new freshmen; question is raised of whether alterations in orientation course, which has an IDS prefix, should have gone through curriculum change procedures

VI. Committee Reports

- Curriculum committee has received one set of changes and will meet to discuss; committee chair J. Knapp reminds faculty submitting curriculum changes to post files to shared drive
- Handbook committee will meet this Thursday, 6 October
- Cultural and Recreation committee meeting next week; K. Davis encourages faculty with ideas for activities related to enhancing campus culture to apply for some of the approximately $14,000 in funds allotted to this committee for such purposes
- IDS committee (faculty association) has not chosen a chairperson; there is some discussion of how a committee with no chair is called to meet; N. Osborn asks K. Crow to call a meeting so a chair can be chosen; K. Crow graciously consents

VII. Old Business

N. Osborn reminds faculty that they may submit anonymous suggestions and/or concerns to the Faculty Association suggestion box.

VIII. New Business

- Twenty-seven pages of the revised Faculty Handbook have been submitted to the handbook committee from the VPAA’s office; committee will evaluate and report; N. Osborn will request an electronic copy that can be shared
- J. Loutsch announces Cancer Awareness Week, beginning 9 October
- A Karjala asks faculty to encourage students to attend the Giles Symposium, 27 October, and encourages faculty to attend the mixer at the president’s house that afternoon; J Loutsch will host a pep rally for the event on the 24th
- K. Bohannon invites faculty to S. Weber’s recital this evening
- J. Knapp reminds faculty of art shows both upstairs and downstairs
- K. Davis announces Festival of Arts and Ideas on 11 and 13 October and Mind Games round two airing 5 October
- D. Reigh invites faculty to peruse the USAO Habitat Area’s official Facebook page
- N. Warden announces Hypatia luncheon scheduled for 10 November
IX. Motion to adjourn by K. Lamar, second J. Knapp, 11:57 am

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley S. Rees