Minutes of the USAO Faculty Association
November 5, 2013

Signed in as present:

I. Call to order by President D. Hanson at 11:07am.
II. Approval of the minutes. Motion by A. Karjala. Second by Z. Simpson. Approved unanimously.
III. Treasurer report: $982.81
IV. Committee assignments are complete.
   a. Tenure & Promotion committee- one-week extension (from Jan 15th to Jan 22nd) was approved
   b. IDS- no business to report
   c. Resource- no business to report
   d. Curriculum- no business to report
   e. Faculty Welcoming- no business to report
   f. Faculty Handbook
      i. J. Mather shared a question that was brought to the committee. Because administrative reviews are private, and therefore not included in tenure & promotion or tenure review files, should student evaluations also be private at the division level?
         1. Discussion ensued. How else would we assess teaching at the division level?
         2. Evaluations used to be used solely for individual faculty improvement.
         3. How do other schools evaluate teaching?
            a. Chair evaluation, peer evaluation
               i. M. Rodgers explained that the Evaluations committee is developing a voluntary peer review process which we will report on at a later date.
         4. J. Finck offered a motion: “We should remove the requirement that student evaluations be included in tenure & promotion and tenure review files at the division level.”
            a. Z. Simpson seconded.
            b. Yes- 6, No- 30, Abstain- 2
         5. A suggestion was raised- could the Tenure & Promotion committee look into how teaching is evaluated at other schools?
   g. Ad Hoc Faculty Concerns- no business to report
V. Old business
   a. Response to Letter to the Administration (from October 2013)
      i. D. Hanson delivered the letter to University President J. Feaver’s office.
      ii. The only response has come from VPAA D. Marble during the October Faculty Forum.
          1. D. Hanson summarized the VPAA’s response for those who did not attend the forum.
      iii. The suggestion was made that faculty send the Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Concerns to meet with M. Coponiti regarding pension and benefits questions.
          iv. See V1b below
   b. Copies of the evaluations and his slideshow are available on the shared drive.
      i. Link: \AHSERVER\Faculty\SHARED\Student Evaluations Committee\Student Evaluations\2013 Summer Results
   b. D. Hanson reported on his discussion with M. Coponiti regarding salary concerns.
      i. Faculty should not expect a restoration of funds
      ii. There is a possibility of switching from Lincoln Financial
      iii. Salaries- faculty should expect little or no increases in the near future
      iv. Other questions were raised
          1. Office hours- should we pursue the issues (change, total number of hours) further? General consensus was no.

   VI. New business
      a. J. Sanders reported on the results of the new evaluations piloted in the summer.
      Copies of the evaluations and his slideshow are available on the shared drive.
      i. Link: \AHSERVER\Faculty\SHARED\Student Evaluations Committee\Student Evaluations\2013 Summer Results
      b. D. Hanson reported on his discussion with M. Coponiti regarding salary concerns.
         i. Faculty should not expect a restoration of funds
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   VII. Concerns, reminders, suggestions- none (no time)
   VIII. Announcements- none (no time)
   IX. Adjournment- Z Simpson moved to adjourn. J. Loutsch seconded. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:01.

Respectfully submitted,

Meagan Rodgers
Faculty Association Secretary