Minutes of the USAO Faculty Association
March 4, 2014

Signed in as present:

I. Meeting called to order by D. Hanson at 11:08am
II. Approval of the minutes
III. Treasurer’s report- $989.81
IV. Update from M. Nealeigh
   a. ITAC initiative is going well
   b. Steering Committee (M. Nealeigh, M. Trevino, K. Arnold)
   c. Forming an Advisory Committee
      i. 2 representatives from Faculty Association, Staff Association, Student Association, and Alumni Association (1 invited by committee, 1 selected by represented body)
      ii. M. Nealeigh asked Faculty Assoc. to vote for its representative today
          1. After M. Nealeigh’s departure, K. Davis volunteered to serve as this representative. K. Bohannon moved to accept, K. Crow seconded. Unanimous approval. No abstentions.
   d. M. Nealeigh reported he was headed to visit I. Schafer, who was very ill
V. Committee reports
   a. Tenure & Promotion- no business to report
   b. IDS- no business to report
   c. Resource- no business to report
      i. B. Brown reminded the Association of the original intent of the committee—to keep track of how the university is using its resources and how usage impacts faculty
         1. For example, there has been no change in many years in the $2,500 total GAE funds available annually for faculty development
         2. Other issues the Resource committee might consider:
            a. No discussion on return of retirement
            b. Support for faculty sabbaticals (the lack of sabbaticals was noted as a problem by the Higher Learning Commission)
            c. Compare retirement, salaries, etc. to other institutions
               i. In the state
               ii. COPLAC
d. We are paid for 8 months, but other schools in the state are paid for 9 months.

3. K. Davis moved that the Resource Committee prepare a report for the Association that includes data on retirement, salary, and other general benefits, comparing USAO to other institutions

d. Curriculum- K. Davis presented the following changes
   i. Changes to clarify what counts for artistic expression and physical expression credits. (New: will have symbols on the schedule to indicate eligibility.)
      a. Artistic expression. 1 course deleted from the list. 7 added.
      b. Physical expression. 4 deleted. 1 added.
      c. J. Loutsch moved to consider the changes as a group. Z. Simpson seconded. Unanimous approval. No abstentions.
      d. J. Loutsch moved to approve. Z. Simpson seconded. Unanimous approval. No abstentions.

   ii. Course additions & updates from Science & Physical Education.
      1. Add Bio 4000-level special topics course
      2. Add Phys Ed. 3000-level Sport in Film & Lit
      3. Change course description for Theory of Coaching (to reflect current sport options)
      4. Division, Teacher Ed, and Curriculum Committees all unanimously approved the changes.
      5. J. Loutsch moved to consider the changes as a group. V. Ferguson seconded. Unanimous approval. No abstentions.

   iii. Changes to Science Colloquium
      1. Drop existing all-purpose colloquium and create three separate courses (1000, 2000, and 3000 level courses)
      2. 0- or 1-credit
      3. J. Loutsch moved to consider the changes as a group. N. Osborn seconded. Unanimous approval. No abstentions.
      4. J. Loutsch moved to approve. N. Osborn seconded. Unanimous approval. One abstention.

   iv. Curriculum committee will meet one more time this year

   e. Faculty Welcoming- no business to report
f. Faculty Handbook- J. Finck reported that the committee received several comments on proposed changes to the project to clarify tenure, promotion, and tenure review language in the handbook. The committee will make revisions and share new drafts before the next meeting.

a. Ad Hoc Faculty Concerns- no business to report

g. Ad Hoc Student Evaluations- no business to report

VI. Old business

a. Graduation ceremony-
   i. D. Hanson reports that concerns were discussed. The committee is considering presenting the division outstanding graduate plaques during the ceremony. No outside speakers for spring. Committee is considering creating a pool of speakers.
   ii. L. McElroy notes that the alumni association is accepting nominations for “Young Alums” (graduate in last 15 years). She also reports that those who are not alumni may join the association as “friends.”

VII. New business

a. Soliciting volunteers for Vice President/Treasurer (must be tenured) and Secretary offices for 2014-2015. Contact D. Hanson to volunteer or nominate.

b. Faculty asked the Handbook Committee to review the language related to sabbatical pay (3/4 pay for a semester versus ½ pay for a semester)

c. (This was brought up during Announcements.) A. Karjala suggested that faculty consider taking a formal stance on the issue of guns on campus (similar to one made several years ago). Several faculty volunteered to look for the old letter. A. Karjala will draft a brief new letter and distribute it to the faculty for consideration.

VIII. Concerns, reminders, suggestions- no time

IX. Announcements

a. J. Loutsch- king cakes bake sale

b. B. Brown announced S. Webb releasing new book of poetry on 4/1. English honor society is hosting a reading that night.

c. K. Bohannon- Davis Waldorf performance “Ain’t I a Woman”

d. J. Knapp- Innovations: high school juried exhibition ongoing

e. J. Vaughn- Emerson Weir symposium

f. J. Sanders- Physicists presentation in Science Colloquium

g. V. Ferguson- asked about status of online enrollment training

h. N. Warden- Hypatia luncheon 3/27


Respectfully submitted,

Meagan Rodgers
Faculty Association secretary