Academic Assembly
May 3, 2010

<u>MINUTES</u>

Present: John Strait, Charles Lawrence, Jacquelyn Miller, John Weaver, Flora Wilson Bridges, Jen Sorensen, Karen Feldt, Jean Tang, Frank Shih, Kristen Shuyler, Nina L. Valerio, Sonora Jha, Valerie Lesniak, Chips Chipalkatti, David Neel, Mary Graham, Tracey Pepper, Randy Horton, Jason Wirth, Clare Monahan, Francisco Guerrero, Isiaah Crawford.

Guest: Kent Koth, Director of Center for Service and Community Engagement

Minutes taken by Kristen Heinemeyer

1) Welcome

2) Review of Minutes

Action Item: Present Assembly members approved to adopt the minutes from April 19th.

3) New Program Proposal, Global Awareness Program (GAP), revisited
   a) Short discussion was held regarding advising/faculty within Arts & Sciences.

Action Item: Academic Assembly approved the GAP proposal with 11 members in approval and 5 abstentions. This proposal will be forwarded on to the Provost.

4) ASSU Debit/SUCard Joint-account, Clare Monahan
   a) Clare Monahan briefed the Assembly on the ASSU proposal and progress working with US Bank on providing students with a Debit/SUCard joint-account.
   b) Assembly discussed and topics included: overdraft charges, advantages of the joint-account, research at other universities.

5) Faculty Handbook Revision Committee (FHRC)
   a) Main project this summer is to work with the FHRC and Ann Franke (….) reviewing the handbook as it exists.
   b) FHRC will be sending out a questionnaire to SU community with hopes to get as many responses as possible. Please encourage colleagues to submit responses as they are important and helpful to the FHRC.
   c) A website will be set up where the community can see the revisions as they happen. When this site is set up, the FHRC will notify the assembly.

6) Filling committee vacancies
   a) Currently in a restructure process of how appointments are done within Academic Assembly. Kristen Heinemeyer is working on a spreadsheet of standing university committees. This will allow the assembly to see which committees need appointments from Academic Assembly.
   b) The goal is to fill vacancies for Fall quarter by the end of Spring quarter.
   c) Process and spreadsheet will be in place for Spring 2011.

7) University-wide Community Engagement, Kent Koth
   a) Kent joined Academic Assembly to discuss how the assembly sees the Youth Imitative connecting with faculty.
   b) The Youth Initiative is an offspring of the University goal to engage in the wider community. It will focus on the neighborhood to the south of SU and Bailey Gatzert Elementary School. This neighborhood was chosen due the amount of existing partnerships with SU as well and the goal of engaging youth with goals for future school/education.
   c) In seeking questions and advice from the assembly, topics included: current involvement of SU community, role of initiative linked between faculty research and writing, multi-year long-term ties and relationships, quality versus quantity, relationship of Law School with SYI, this effort is beyond tutoring with hope to draw from particular skills within each school/college, relationships with psychology and leadership programs, cross-school involvement, pre-orientation for students and faculty, sustainable link to the university, integrate this process into the classroom.

8) Ombudsperson, revisited
   a) Assembly discussed Ombudsperson proposal in executive session at the previous meeting.

Action Item: In executive session, assembly approved to send the Ombudsperson proposal forward with the idea that this position would be moved out of the Office of the Provost to serve the wider university community.

9) Faculty contracting concerns, revisited
   a) The assembly brought up the still existing concern of the changes within the faculty contracts for AY2010-2011 and asked for clarification from the Provost.
      i) Concern with faculty who teach summer courses.
      ii) How present does "available" mean?
   b) Provost Isiaah Crawford clarified:
      i) This addition to the contract is a professional courtesy where faculty members are available 2-weeks prior to the start of the quarter/semester and 1-week after the conclusion of the academic term. The University should be able to reach the faculty member if something comes up, requires approval, etc. Faculty are not required to be on campus during this time, but be accessible via e-mail and/or phone or have another faculty in the department to respond in their absence.
      ii) The Office of the Provost has learned through this process to take issues like this one to the Assembly, and will be more attentive to this concern in the future.
   c) As Academic Assembly members, when there is dissatisfaction among colleagues, representatives need to be more active about faculty who do have a problem and notify the other representatives of the assembly how then can make recommendations to the Provost who can be the voice to the administration.

Next meeting: May 17th 2010, 1:30-3:30pm, STCN 210