Faculty Council Meeting Minutes  
September 15, 2011


Guests: Professor A. Schuman

I.  Calling the Meeting to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 11:40 p.m.

II.  Announcements

The Chair informed Faculty Council that the meeting should start at 11:15 a.m. because many council members have a 1:00 p.m. class. Need all the time to complete the agenda items set out to complete 2011-2012 year. The Chair mention the status from the Princeton Review. (Discussion later in the meeting)

Chair Jonakait also stated that she would use her authority to select council to serve on committee.

III.  Old Business

Report on Standing Committee on Course Evaluations – Professor P. Nelson – Professor Nelson reported on the findings from the committee:
- The revision and recommendation to the course evaluation survey.
- Some questions that was removed.
- A recommended survey for the students

Council questioned the following items on the survey:
1) Course Type – the quality of the course materials/textbook
2) Instructor Section – availability outside of class hours

Professor Schuman, a committee member, also spoke in favor of the report presented. After discussion on the report presented, a motion for faculty council to consider was made and seconded. The motion “Moved that the revision to the student course evaluation survey as developed by the Standing Committee and agreed to by the Provost be approved by the Faculty Council.” Motion passed. Approve – 10  Opposed – 3

The motion will go to the Faculty on October 12, 2011; any questions should be forward to the committee in a timely fashion.

Princeton Review – Chair Jonakait inform council of part of the results:
- NJIT is #1 in having the least happy students
- NJIT is #1 in the worst professor (given the lowest rate
- NJIT is #6 in the least well kept campus
- NJIT is #6 in college town not great

Questions from council:
- How do we change the rating?
- Who gather the information for the review?
- What questions are asked?
- Speak with the President about the information regarding the review.
- Compare other similar school to NJIT
- The Provost need to deal with this issue.

Council agreed to look into how the rating from the Princeton Review comes about.

Shared Governance – There will be a Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, October 5, 2011 to discuss the SGSC proposal to the faculty. Chair Jonakait ask council, did the discussion last week help you to be comfortable to take the proposal to their colleague in there department.

Council agreed that along with committee members to answer questions it would be possible. However, more information and clarification is needed before sharing with the department. The Faculty Senate is explained in details; however, the University Senate is not clear with its duties and responsibility. Council think one senate is fine.
- Is three committees needed?
- The senate will oversee some of the same issues.
- There have been many committees with no production.
- Can council have a representative from the SGSC visit each department to discuss the proposal?
- Nothing mention about research, how does it work and what area the rights of faculty.
- The Faculty Handbook will not be negated.
- What’s the history behind the proposal?
- Why be in a hurry with the proposal?
- If we push for a vote in a hurry, then process will slow down.
- It’s clear as a group we are not comfort or ready to go forward.

Chair Jonakait inform council to be ready for a full discussion at the October 12, 2011 Faculty Meeting, however, no vote will be taken on the proposal. The Provost and the SGSC would like to see the faculty vote on the proposal in principle at the December 7, 2011 Faculty Meeting.

Handbook Revisions – Professor M. Bieber, D. Gary, and S. Pemberton will continue to make changes and revision to the Handbook along with Professor R. Sher. The task for the semester is to finish the up Section 2. All changes in Handbook that was voted on and passed by Faculty in the last few years up to Section 2.6 are on the council web page. Professor Sher has revised the Handbook unto Section 2.7. He pass the revisions and files over to Professor Pemberton. The handbook needs to be ready for the upcoming Middle State in November 2011.

IV. New Business

Council agreed sub-committees are needed to look into the university budget. Faculty should be involved.
Committee members for Grade change practices, Professors B. Baltzis and Steve Tricamo.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.