May 8, 2019 Faculty Meeting Minutes -- FINAL

Faculty Chair Steve Blakeslee opened the meeting at 3:18 p.m. and indicated a change to the order of the agenda that is reflected in the minutes below. He provided additional information on the leadership concerns that he spoke to at the previous faculty meeting, describing recent conversations that have taken place between the Board of Trustees and several faculty who had come forward with concerns. He then explained that the Board of Trustees plans to make some changes to the way in which it solicits feedback from the community in response to the President’s self-evaluation, and encouraged faculty to take advantage of the public comments process, which will take place in June. Steve indicated that a few faculty members had suggested that a vote of no confidence might be a means of addressing the issue, then explained that the Agenda Committee, in keeping with Section 2.200 of the Faculty Handbook, had declined this possibility at present because such votes are reserved for extraordinary situations in which regular procedures do not suffice. At the same time, he affirmed the faculty’s right to hold such votes in future if truly necessary. Steve also indicated that the Agenda Committee takes this issue seriously and will consider ways for faculty to have productive conversations about the state of the college and its leadership. A brief conversation ensued.

The April 24, 2019 faculty meeting minutes were approved as distributed.

Faculty elected position nominations – Steve invited nominations for the following positions (with nominees recorded alongside each position):

- 2019-2020 Faculty Chair – John Caraher
- 2020-2021 Chair-elect – no nominations
- 2019-2021 Agenda Committee members – Sarah Ryan, Eric Thuesen, Cynthia Kennedy, Lalita Calabria, Mike Paros, Clarissa Dirks
- 2019-2020 Council of Faculty – Lori Blewett

Provost update/Q&A – Jen Drake provided an enrollment, budget, and legislative update. She indicated that there is a more solid projection of fall enrollments now that priority registration for first-time, first-year students has passed, a projection that is lower than anticipated. Further work will be done to improve enrollment, but planning, such as for housing and the curriculum, needs to take into account this lower projection. Jen then provided an update on the current budget process, including an upcoming opportunity for the community to provide feedback to the Resource Allocation Advisory Committee (RAAC). She ended the update with highlights from the legislative session. A brief question and answer period followed.

Proposed new hiring priorities process – Standing Committee on the Curriculum (SCC) co-chair Steven Hendricks provided an update of the ways in which the committee has solicited feedback, as well as the questions – and responses to the questions -- that the SCC has considered. He provided a review of the SCC’s revised proposal that included the goals and timeline of a Strategic Curriculum Review, as well as other elements of the proposed hiring priorities process, such as the composition of the hiring priorities committee, the position proposal process, and the overall calendar of annual and biannual activities.

A motion was then introduced by the SCC, moving that the college adopt a new process for determining faculty hiring priorities, as detailed in the revised proposal. The motion was seconded. Discussion ensued, and the question was called with no objections. Faculty filled out paper ballots that were collected and tallied by members of the Agenda Committee. With 47 voting members present, the vote tally was 26 in favor, 10 opposed, and 11 abstaining. Because the percentage of affirmative votes did not meet the level necessary for passage, the motion was defeated.

Announcements:

- Brigit Irish announced the upcoming Global Accessibility Awareness day.
- Two students from the Culture, Self, and Healing program introduced a 2-question survey that they invited faculty to complete.
- Therese Saliba reminded faculty to announce to their students that Mentoring Day is May 15.
- Therese asked people to vote for the faculty speaker at this year’s commencement ceremony.
- Therese and Joli Sandoz announced upcoming workshops sponsored by the Teaching and Learning Commons.
- Vauhn Foster-Gralher reminded faculty that it is Ramadan and that there may be students in their program who are observing it.
- Jen indicated that the NWCCU is revising its standards centered on student learning outcomes and curriculum design.
- Steve announced that emeritus nominations will be conducted at the Week 8 faculty meeting.

Steve closed the meeting at 5:06 p.m.