**Minutes of the Winter All-Faculty Meeting**

**January 31, 2017**

**Electrical Engineering and Physics 252**

Chair Rod Rice called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm. Provost Kouris and 52 faculty members attended.

* Institutional Workload Model

Now that the Institutional Workload Policy has been submitted to the BoR, the current schedule for completion of individual department plans is the end of Spring Semester 2017. As these plans become available, they will be circulated among the members of the ALC with the understanding that interdisciplinary flexibility is essential. After the ALC has a chance to review what departments are currently using, discussions will continue.

Question: **How is this to be used by the institution? For instance, will the data obtained be used for resource allocation decisions?**

Answer: No direct correlation between workload and resource allocation, but will likely be taken into account.

Question: **Who is responsible for making sure framework is followed?**

Answer: Individual department heads. Provost has neither time nor desire to do this.

Question: **What was the origin of the spreadsheet?**

Answer: Need for numbers. Provost did not believe the original spreadsheet proposed by the ad hoc Workload Committee in January 2016 included enough quality measures.

Question: **Will there be training for using the spreadsheet?**

Answer: None planned currently.

Question: **Will treating performance areas differently extend past SDSMT? How will our system mesh with overall state system?**

Answer: Provost is not that concerned. Generally, we don’t compare well with other state institutions.

Question: **How will most faculty’s nine-month contract translate to the 12-month year?**

Answer: Easiest way is to add a summer spreadsheet.

* Transition to New President

The Provost does not know too much about this yet. Usually it’s a fast process for Department of Defense appointees. His assumption is that nothing has or will change until the appointment is approved. BoR will then appoint a search committee. Typically 16 members form the committee, including representatives of all stakeholders, faculty, students, Exempt, CSA, community, alumni, and the Foundation.

Question: **How will this affect the Provost’s position?**

Answer: The Provost has not really started thinking about this, although he has filled in for the President when Dr. Wilson was unavailable.

Question: **Is there a timetable for hiring a new President should President Wilson join President Trump’s cabinet?**

Answer: Not currently, and it may not be finished before next academic year. Much depends on the completion of the Congressional Confirmation Hearings.

* Other Questions

**What was the purpose and origin of the six questions added to the online IDEA surveys? Also, what were the questions?**

Answer: This was a follow-up to Student Satisfaction Inventory (SSI). The desire was to provide supplemental assessment information to the SSI in order to guide improvements in areas important to students such as instructional excellence, course content, feedback on academic performance, and the like.

Dr. Rice read the questions (see the December Senate Minutes for the complete list).

**Did the President originate these questions and why was there no faculty involvement?**

Answer: Yes. Mostly lack of time, the desire currently is for aggregated data not individual data.

**Will this data be connected to the SSI?**

Answer: Maybe.

**Do we have a Retention Committee? What is the purpose?**

Answer: More of a retention group, and it’s primarily administrative.

**Does this committee include any faculty members?**

Answer: Not currently.

Dr. Rice suggested that there should be faculty representation on this committee. Faculty representatives were part of the now disbanded University Retention Committee.

**What is the status of the four-year degree guarantee program?**

Answer: The idea is dead; it would have been difficult to administer and monitor.

**What is the status of the Honor’s program?**

Answer: Dr. Kenner is in charge of effort. Have had 163 students apply for admission to the Honor’s program so far.

**What is the status of the budget?**

Answer: The budget from the State has yet to be set. We may or may not get a 1% raise. The number of faculty positions and instructors may increase as we leave the fiscal deficit we were in. SDSMT has needed to remain about $1.7 million in the black each year to pay back the BoR. As we finish paying off the BoR in about a year, this money will become available for other priorities that may give us added flexibility. One proposed use for some of this money is for graduate student cost sharing--matching grant funding with institutional resources to increase effort level achievable. The current Executive Council plan is to pay down the debt as quickly as possible.

**What is the status of the Student Success Center? What are they doing?**

Answer: Dr. Kouris recommended faculty visit their website to see what they are doing. The Success Center is not meant to be a home for troubled children, but to provide opportunity for all students. The Provost has found their efforts to be really unique.

**What is the status of Starfish? Have any evaluation criteria been set**

Answer: There is a lunch-n-learn about Starfish in early February. Participation is higher this semester than in the past, although this may be a result of an administrative push to have many classes use Starfish. Two SD schools dropped Starfish, so now it costs us more. Still, nothing may be better and cheaper than Starfish. Other systems are not an option for us at this point but it may be possible to use WebAdvisor to achieve similar results.

Dr. Rice adjourned the meeting at 4:55 pm.