

FACULTY MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

3:35 PM – Heritage Commons

I. Approval of the draft minutes of May 4, 2016 meeting.

The May 4, 2016 minutes were approved as written.

II. Reports

A. Don Birx, President

The President's report was sent out electronically in advance of this meeting.

Mary Cornish asked President Birx his thoughts on Greek Life. President Birx stated that Greek Life can be beneficial to a campus if constructed in a way to have a positive impact on students and to help students that are feeling alone.

Mary Ann McGarry asked that the President consider community themed houses as opposed to Greek life.

President Birx was asked about packaging of gen ed classes. President Birx stated that students generally take courses that fit into their schedules instead of courses that would give them a breadth of their major. Penn State packages courses and the students earn certificates in that gen ed. For example...marketing or business start-up. Packaging would also integrate with clusters.

Faculty noted that there are more students from outside our region and other countries. President Birx was asked if that was part of a strategy and would there be an expansion of resources and help for international students.

President Birx answered yes to both and then asked Jason Moran to answer. Jason stated that we are in a demographic decline and for the past 3 years we have been focusing on New England states. Admissions is looking to find states outside New England that would fit well with our university. Once those markets have been identified, they will apply a strategic plan for those markets for AY18. Jason also stated that he is trying to explore new areas for international students instead of just focusing on a few international markets.

B. Academic Deans

The Academic Affairs report was sent out electronically prior to the meeting.

No questions.

C. Principle Policymaking Committees

No questions.

D. Cluster Guides

No questions.

III. Old Business (none)

IV. New Business (none)

VI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:57 pm. [Note: Announcements followed Adjournment]

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Hersom, Scribe

DRAFT

Report from the General Education Committee

(submitted by Wendy Palmquist, committee chair)

At the May 2016 Gen Ed Committee meeting after meeting with the Gen Ed task force, and considering the questions about the interface of Gen Ed with the developing cluster model, the committee decided to suspend reviewing sunset material for the coming year, and focus instead on what kinds of changes should be made, if any, to our current Gen Ed program. All deadlines will jump forward one full year, until further notice.

Faculty Bylaws Task Force

(submitted by Lourdes Avilés as interim chair of the Faculty Steering Committee)

The Faculty Steering Committee, in consultation with the faculty speaker and the academic deans and in recognition of the many changes that have occurred during the last few years and the bigger changes coming up, is forming a task force to begin the process of revising the Plymouth State University Faculty Bylaws. We expect that the full process will take several years, but the initial task force charge is only for the 2016-17 academic year.

Composition

The task force will consist of the faculty speaker and three to six additional faculty volunteers interested in the update and revision of the Faculty Bylaws. The faculty speaker, in consultation with the Faculty Steering Committee, will appoint the additional members of the task force from among the volunteers. At the end of the 2016-17 academic years members can choose to continue the task the following year when the continuing bylaws task force is formed for the following academic year.

Charge and Timeline

The task force will, in consultation with the steering committee, the principal policy making committees, the academic deans and the president, review the entire document and identify various levels of changes needed (for example, cleanup items, issues that require moderate policy changes, issues that require major policy changes, issues that need to wait for new structures and initiatives to take place, etc.).

The task force will provide the Steering Committee motions to start applying those changes throughout the academic year to be included in the next faculty meeting agenda and be voted on by the faculty (bylaw changes require 2/3 majority of members present in the meeting).

At the end of the academic year, the task force will identify what the next steps should be, make recommendations to the Steering Committee, and report to the faculty.