Faculty Success Council Minutes

August 25, 2023 2:00-3:15pm

2:00PM STEAM Center room 1019

In attendance: Kate Warner, Shá Wilfred, Ligia Foscan, Monika Meler, Cori Crews, Catherine Bowers, Jenny Evans, Ryan Wander, Brian Ring, Roy Copeland, Lynn Crump, Emily Rogers, Sheri Noviello, Sheri Gravett, Jamie Landau, and Marsha Dukes

1. Welcome - Emily Rogers welcomed everyone and asked each one to introduce themselves due to the changing of council members.
2. Announcements
   1. Emily stated that the Faculty Dining Room was open in the Palms Dining Center and the council would inquire about modest renovations and scheduling FSC lunches.
   2. Sheri Noviello announced Pop-Ins with the Provost and desires an open door for connections with faculty and staff to voice any issues or concerns.
3. Meeting with HR/Jeanine Bodie LaVan-Kate explained the New Faculty Success Survey to give new members background information and summarized survey results which included recommendations to create welcome packets with pertinent information on housing, childcare, utilities setup, etc. and also update the website with useful information. A template was suggested to use to keep hiring process open and designed to avoid gaps in the process of communication between the University and the candidate. Kate explained that she and Adam met with Christy Yates and Jeanine. HR was very responsive and eager to respond to issues and would like to be involved in upcoming surveys and are open to collaboration.
4. Survey of Faculty from Diverse Backgrounds – task established by the Academic Strategic Plan. Emily stated that the timing of the survey may result in negative feedback due to budget issues and recent cutbacks. Sheri Noviello had suggested using focus groups to gather the data and Emily asked the council’s opinion on having a focus group.
   1. Roy Copeland-requested clarification of the term “diverse group.” He is opposed to having a focus group without having a survey first. He also stated that he was in favor of moving forward as the University did have issues with diversity and those issues should be addressed. Jamie agreed with Roy and stated that the data had been collected through a task force that had spent 6 months on this issue and results were on the President’s website. She is fearful another survey may offend participants as only some action was taken with the results gathered from the task force.

Jamie suggested using pilot data from that survey to pull action items.

Jenny asked the purpose of doing another survey and the answer was to recruit and retain faculty from diverse backgrounds. Jaime stated where the survey could be found and said that Vincent Miller and Sandra Jones would have the raw data. Catherine suggested all members read the report and pick out action items. Emily will send link out to report. Kate suggested Teams folder.

Jaime recommended to members to look at Strategic Plan definition and HR definition of diversity.

1. Survey of Part-time faculty- Catherine asked what does HR want to know from part-time faculty and Kate expanded stating to learn about their experience in the hiring process and what part-time faculty need in the way of support. Jamie shared an example of a parking issue that arose when a part-time faculty member attended training on campus and was asked to purchase a $95 parking pass. This is an example of an issue that needs a solution.
2. Other updates- Kate had elaborated on topics earlier with explanation of New Faculty Success survey and results.
3. Other Business:
   1. President Carvajal’s 2030 Initiative- Emily asked Sheri Noviello to address, and she mentioned members of this committee along with Jamie, who mentioned other faculty and staff who serve.
   2. Shá asked about faculty concerns with Blazeview, usage and skill levels of faculty and mentioned students who struggle with using it. Marsha stated that a tutorial is available and also the Blazeview Guide 101 is available for additional help. Cori mentioned that each course is different and faculty could make their own video tutorials based on their courses. Marsha also mentioned the media center had great resources as well. Several members discussed the differences and for example FYSE could be a possible place to house additional Blazeview training for students. Emily mentioned BV Tools for Success and Catherine mentioned making the training required. Kate suggested a universal Blazeview course template such as the one used by OCCA courses to make student experience similar in every class. Marsha mentioned the similarities between courses. Sheri Noviello mentioned the revival of the Student Success Council and that group might be a good place to begin researching a solution.
   3. Jamie-Availability of tech support for online students on weekends. Cori went over example of student needing support on weekend hours and there was not any. Sheri N. stated this is a question for Kevin Overlaur. Jamie and Marsha check helpdesk on weekends but there is a gap for filling IT needs.
4. New Business- Ligia brought up concerns about faculty advising and the hand-off in September. There seems to be confusion on the number of hours a student will have at the transition point. Dr. Noviello stated students should be transitioned to faculty for advising upon reaching 60 credit hours. Faculty will begin advising at 61 credit hours. Brian stated Alicia Roberson could be contacted about advising questions. It was agreed that Degree Works (advising software) training is needed. Cori asked for suite training on Degree Works, Visual Schedule Builder, Graduation checklists, etc. Jamie stated Alicia would provide that training to faculty. Jamie mentioned creating a “best practice” handout to assist faculty with advising.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Next Meeting – September 22, 2023, Steam Center Room 1019