

Faculty Advisory Council
Minutes of Meeting 03-24-2006
ASB

In attendance: Steve Gordon, Mike Boone, Ann Brooks, Maria de la Colina, Gwynne Ash, Colleen Connolly, Kathryn Lee (taking Jo Webber), Steve Furney, Bobby Patton, Jennifer Battle, Miguel Guajardo (substituting for Sarah Nelson), Tinker Murray, Shana Pate

Absent: Mo Johnson,

The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Gordon at 1:19 p.m.

Kathryn Lee was introduced as the C & I representative replacing Jo Webber.

Dialogue with Dean Barrera:

Dean Barrera asked for FAC endorsement for postponing indefinitely our bid for NCATE accreditation. There were a number of factors that pushed her to make that decision.

She attended a Teacher Education branch of the Association of Colleges and Universities along with a series of other meetings where concerns were registered. There was talk about Texas being an NCATE state rather than going at it alone. To remain as a candidate, the college has to pay \$5,000 a year. She believes we are doing good work with our individual SACS accreditation, and she thinks that we will be best suited to remove ourselves as pre-candidates. Dean Barrera would like our endorsement so she can let the rest of the university know. Steve Gordon said that we would talk as a FAC about it and give her a vote later today.

A question was raised: “What are the advantages of NCATE?” It makes some certifications transferable. It may not be that big of an advantage. Only 9 institutions in Texas are NCATE accredited. There seems to be very little state support for NCATE. NCATE seems to be losing some clout.

Another question was asked: “Can we get rid of LiveText?” Dean Barrera said that that would be up to the individual departments.

Dean Barrera was in South Texas and their involvement with ACP (Alternative Certification Providers). More than ½ of the first year teachers in Texas last year were certified through ACP. More than 1/3 nationally. 75% of teachers in SPED are coming out of ACP. ACPs are training mostly HS, SPED, Bilingual, Math, Science. So, we need to be thinking about what we need to be focusing on while these ACPs are so active. What can C & I do to help with professional development?

We need to look for research opportunities to link college of ed success to public school success (how our students are doing as teachers and how their students are doing). The research that is being done in this area is showing that the university-based teacher and the ACP trained teacher—in the beginning, the university-based teacher looks stronger, but after 3 or 4 years, the university-based teacher and the ACP trained teacher look very much alike. Of course, that assumes that the ACP teachers are still teaching. Through ACPs, we’re getting more male teachers, more minorities. Texas is currently

the leader in ACPs. California is second. In the Rio Grande Valley, teachers are being told to go into the content area and then go to the ACP. Dean Barrera said that if we can compete with ACPs, she wants to be convinced.

Look at ACE (American College of Education) online—they are providing a Master's of Education in Elementary Education and a Master's in Educational Administration. They are partnering with the Chicago schools. Involved are Mike Moses, Michael Murphy, and _____. On the website, they list all the courses they offer.

So we need to focus on what our mission is and where we want to be in five, ten years.

Update on College P & T guidelines:

Dean Barrera is making some changes that stem from the college review group. She raised questions about how we write up the commentaries on the candidates. There's a vote taken and there were not clear guidelines on how that was to occur. The vote and the corresponding statements didn't match. Dean Barrera said that the Associate Provost found them unacceptable. So, the statements need to be re-written. The perception was that you turn in a note-type commentary. But we need to turn in positive commentary with our votes. All of this needs to be in the P & T guidelines. One person cannot be responsible for the notes—they need to be previewed by everyone on the committee. Dean Barrera wants people to “not be wimpy” when voting. She wants us to stand by our word as we vote.

A question was asked about other changes to the guidelines. There were not any other major changes. Teaching, Scholarship, and Service are all to be looked at and reviewed. A question was asked about weight on each—currently, they're all equal, but there's been “talk”/rumors that it might be a 40/40/20 weight distribution. There has not been any official word on that.

We will need to make sure that the departmental guidelines exist and are in line with the college guidelines. We also need to have departmental guidelines for merit and performance.

There was a university-wide statement that new hires should have a 2/2 load that first year.

Gene Burgeois (sp?) is now Associate Provost.

Faculty Senate talked about workload reports—they should be shared and available. Each person will get his/her report and the personnel committee will have the reports for everyone.

The curriculum committee and its work—spent several hours looking at curriculum. There will be a calendar sent out to all department chairs with due dates for all information needed to change curriculum. There will also be online versions. Betty will no longer be in charge—it will be departments.

Plans for providing support to tenure-track faculty

Dean Barrera reported that Larry Price and Jo Webber are working very hard to get some mechanisms in place to help those tenure-track faculty along with faculty preparing to go up for full professor and for people working on grants. They're preparing a scholar-mentor program where we would give a stipend to someone who could work with one or

two junior faculty to help them with their work. Some mechanisms will be defined to particular departments. Perhaps the FAC could have a greater impact on helping junior faculty.

Regarding EAPS—they went for the scholar-mentor program, and HPER went for the buy-out program.

Jo Webber will be presenting later today.

Because OSP is under-staffed, we will have to take the lead in some of these areas.

Ways that Dean and FAC can work together next year to support all faculty:

Dean Barrera hopes to bring closure to a number of items before the end of the year. One is the organizational chart that shows how everything in COE works. She wants to continue to meet with FAC. She said we can get results from Jo and Larry just as well as from the Dean.

Perhaps FAC can help faculty understand information from university-level communication. Dean Barrera wants to have there be two-way communication between the Dean's office and the FAC. She wants faculty to know about what kinds of fights we're battling. For example, right now, we're fighting with Science Department about CI 3310 and CI 3320 because those classes aren't serving our students well. They don't value our pre-service teachers. The Provost office has committed money for the hire of quality faculty in those classes. Dean Barrera wants an informed faculty. Texas State is in a time of transition with new leadership, and we are an organization in flux. So, what are we going to do to get organized? That's what the Dean's office is working on.

Several people offered examples of where communication has broken down because of a lack of guidelines. Jo requested that we email those "problems" to her and they would compile a series of those problems and try to address them.

Coordination of FAC and Department Meetings:

We're stuck between a rock and a hard place because we've said we're going to meet from 2:00-4:00 and department chairs are working around that schedule. So if we change the time so we can all be together, we upset one chair, but if we don't change the time, we have 5-10 people who can't come to the meeting. Jo and Rosalinda requested that Steve come to College Council with that concern.

Any other comments/questions:

A few people thanked her for making a decision on NCATE.

We asked if we might be moving to a 2/2 load for post-tenure to help with scholarship. Clinical faculty might help with that. Jo and Larry have an associate professor initiative.

It was suggested that there would be a more formal mentor program to get people into our classes to watch us teach.

5 minute break

Jo Webber: A Framework for the Division of Research and Professional Development

Jo distributed a framework for professional development document. She wants input from FAC, and she wants to coordinate with FAC as FAC is taking up some professional development. It presents the “What”—research methodology, pre-proposal information, post-proposal information, and other. It also presents the “Who”—the people who will receive the professional development. And the “How” section shows the ways the information will be presented. The second page presents topics and strategies for what would be presented in each “what” section.

The “How” section for Research Methodology:

The Scholar/Mentor Program: Pay a mentor to oversee two junior faculty members in a semester ending with either a data set or a manuscript.

Faculty Fellows: Will pilot in the fall in HPER. Buy a one-course release for a faculty member who will commit to write a grant that semester.

Dialogue Groups: Get groups going where there’s common research or people working on a grant. DRPD would like to coordinate with FAC on the Brown Bags.

Individual meetings with faculty: meet with individuals about individual research and also with Research Enhancement Grants. If you’re thinking about grants/proposals, meet with Jo. If it’s methodology, meet with Larry.

Hoping to get a website up by summer where Call for Proposals will be posted regularly. There will also be a boiler plate section that has the information about the university, the college, etc that can be cut and pasted into a grant.

Dialogue series:

Consortium: poster session for faculty and grad students to display their research; have it be a regular showcase.

Conversations with experts: Room 4040 is set up for video conferencing as of last Wednesday! We can dial up experts in the field and pay them a stipend to chat for an hour or two.

Library: research books. Methodology books. There will be a checkout system.

Topical research committees:

Jo would like to hear brainstorming from us on possible other ideas.

The Pre-Proposal Information “How” section:

OSP workshops: They offer workshops for pre-proposal. They now have three people working on pre-proposal budget.

Because we were running short on time, Chair Gordon asked that we stop with Jo’s presentation for now. He said we would definitely invite her back.

Chair Gordon asked us for discussion on the decision to eliminate NCATE. Bobby Patton moved that we agree with Dean Barrera to postpone indefinitely. Maria de la Colina seconded the motion. We opened it up for discussion. We talked again about LiveText and being sensitive to the students have currently purchased it. 13 – 0 – 1 (pass, against, abstain).

Response to visits:

Chair Gordon thought that having a time to respond to her with a follow-up email would be beneficial. We wanted to tell her how critical it is for her to share the bigger picture of the College and that we agree with her desire to do that. We also want to let her know that we want copies of the College T & P as soon as they're complete.

Trying to set the Forum

Next meeting will be in 4040 next time so we can use the technology and broadcast to Round Rock. April 21st will also be in 4040.

FAC elections are coming up this Spring.

FAC white paper—topic: moving from a 4 course load to a 3 course load for summer. Let's create an outline of what that white paper would look like, then a team would write the white paper.

Kathryn Lee asked if tenure-track professors can be on FAC. There is no concern about "getting in trouble" for being on FAC, it's just a matter of time commitment.

Mike Boone motioned that we adjourn. Gwynne Ash seconded the motion. Chair Gordon adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana Pate
Secretary, Faculty Advisory Council