

Minutes of Departmental Committee Meeting

1:30 Tuesday, November 10, 2015, Room 9341

(Professors Berry, Bertram, Blackwell, Burke, Burstyn, Cavagnero, Ediger, Garand, Gellman, Goldsmith, McMahon, Moore, Nathanson, Weisshaar attending.

Brent Amberger, Rachel Bain, Desiree Bates, Chuck Casey, Arrietta Clauss, Libby Dowdall, Ilia Guzei, Jeanne Hamers, Kristi Heming, Paul Hooker, Tony Jacob, Steve Myers, Jeff Nielsen, Dennis Reece, Cheri Rossi, Matt Sanders, April Sonntag, Danielle Tesch, Kris Turkow, Martha Vestling, Mary Weidner, Chad Wilkinson, Jim Zernicke also attended.)

Open Session

Minutes of the two previous meetings (09/08/15 and 10/13/15) were approved on voice votes.

Announcements and Reports

Safety Update

Jeff Nielsen gave the report. Jeff has been talking a lot about MAQs – this is “Maximum Allowable Quantities”, and refers to flammable chemicals and gases. We need to find a way of reducing these quantities on the upper floors of our buildings.

There was a Building Manager meeting last week to discuss the results of the recent power outages. Physical Plant has taken considerable criticism for their handling of the situation. They considered “only” 14 buildings affected as not a large problem. As a result of this process, Jeff has arranged to have access to a Maintenance Mechanic after hours and on weekends, to be called only in a COOP (Continuity of Operations) situation.

If there are any incidents that cause us to evacuate the building during cold weather, we are directed to use the Ed Sciences building on the southeast corner of Mill and Johnson.

We have been directed by Safety to clear egress paths in the building. For example, the hallway leading from Main Street to the west side of the building on the first floor is an escape route. Currently we have study tables and vending machines there. These will all need to be removed.

Administrative Update

Matt Sanders reminded the group about the recruiting weekends in February – Feb. 12-14 and Feb. 26-28.

Faculty were also reminded that appointments for Spring should be returned to Lynn Malone by November 16.

Grants should be submitted at least 3 days in advance of the deadline or we cannot guarantee they will be processed by their due dates.

Faculty Senate Report

Judith Burstyn reported. The Senate expressed its opposition to fetal cell research restrictions, and to Campus Carry legislation permitting guns on campus. They passed changes to Faculty Policies and Procedures concerning tenure. Post-tenure review policy is now being discussed. The current proposal is NOT AAUP compliant.

Climate Surveys

Bob McMahon announced that the Department is currently involved in several climate surveys. The College is administering one. The Department agreed to be part of a survey administered by WISELI. And the GSFLC will be sending one to students soon.

New Building Update

We have reached the 10% Design Report. The planning is more than 10% done, but this is the formal time when the state pauses to review the status of the plans.

Academic Program Review

Bob McMahon announced that the College committee which was charged with reviewing our report will finish its assignment soon, likely before the end of the semester. We had submitted our report in Spring 2014.

Visit From the Dean

Bob McMahon announced that new Graduate School Dean Bill Karpus will visit the Department on December 7. A group of faculty and staff will host a short presentation and a tour of the building.

With no business brought to the Department Committee, the meeting was adjourned after a motion from John Moore and Helen Blackwell.

December 7, 2015. MJS