

Faculty Assembly Minutes
Tuesday, September 12, 2023 (4:30pm)

Present: Steve Abedon, Terri Bucci, Cynthia Callahan, Eric Anderman, Jamison Kantor, Dawn Kitchen, Phil Mazzocco, Kate Shannon, Kip Curtis, Carol Landry, Amy Brunell, Glenn Hartz, Sergei Chmutov, Joe Fahey, Molly Cavender, Heather Tanner, John Thrasher, Faith Wyzgoski, Del Lindsey, Terri Winnick, Scopas Poggo, Dennis Shaffer, Donna Farland-Smith, Kelly Whitney, Tara Hines, Steven Joyce, Adrienne Hopson, Mirel Caibar

1. Introduction

Cindy Wood, Director of Development and Community Relations, introduced Mariah Quisenberry-Robinson, the new Career Services Coordinator.

2. Retention System Updates

Tara Hines, Student Success Coordinator, gave a presentation on Retention-related topics.

Regarding Progress Reports, faculty are encouraged to select either an attendance concern OR an academic concern so that two separate reports are not generated. Students will now be automatically alerted that a notification has been generated, but they will not receive information about the nature of the notifications. Faculty were reminded to complete the progress reports even if they do not have any student issues to report.

You can also issue a notification outside of the Progress Reports via OnCourse. These notifications can even refer to incidents and situations that are outside the context of a class. These notifications may be warranted (a) in cases of sudden changes in behavior, grades, or attendance; (b) if the student is having personal issues that may be affecting academic performance; (c) if the student has done something noteworthy and deserves a “high five”.

Contrasting EXP vs. GE Launch (Bookends) Courses: EXP 1100 is a course designed to help first year students transition to college and should be taken in the first semester. The GE launch is focused on the GE curriculum, academic and personal success, career goals, etc., and can be taken anytime in the first three semesters. These are both 1 credit courses.

PebblePad is an App that allows students to create a portfolio related to the GE journey. Students will be expected to gather materials from GE and Major classes, they can document experiences with internships, study abroad, service learning, and so on, and can curate professional documents such as resumes. Faculty and staff are strongly encouraged to discuss issues relating to the GE and portfolio-building in their classes.

3. Approval of 4/24/23 Faculty Assembly meeting minutes

A motion to approve the 4/24/2023 Faculty Assembly meeting minutes was made by Heather Tanner and seconded by Del Lindsey. The minutes were approved with 25 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

4. Senate Reports

Faculty Senate Report, Donna Farland-Smith: The committee has met, but there was nothing to report.

Arts and Science Senate Report, Heather Tanner: The committee has not yet met.

5. Dean Search Update

Terri Bucci provided some updates on the Dean Search process. The call for applicants has recently been approved. We are contracting with a hiring company to assist during the application process. Of note, Full Professorship is recommended for applicants, but they will consider non-Full professors as well. Regarding this policy, it was noted that Dean's without Full Professorship may not be able to write annual review letters for Full Professors. There may also be tension regarding a non-Full Dean taking disciplinary action against a Full Professor who may one day vote on their promotion to Full.

Faculty are encouraged to provide formal survey feedback on the Dean Search process.

The OAA listening session last Spring, was it integrated into the search committee meetings.

6. Discussion of Campus Report and 2018 Retreat Document

One issue that arose on the Campus Report was that the community at large seems largely ignorant regarding our campus contributions to the community. As such faculty are encouraged to complete the community involvement survey being administered by Amy Brunell.

7. Time on Campus Discussion

Heather Tanner provided a brief presentation regarding time on campus. Heather shared some research that has shown that hybrid working models are beneficial in saving employees time in terms of travel and allows them to invest that time in other areas, both personal and professional. Also, they tend not to decrease productivity. Heather proposed increasing the common hour to 85 minutes (from 12:35pm-2pm) to allow time for extended faculty assembly meetings, executive committee meetings, brown bags, and so on.

Comments and Feedback:

- Some will be unable to attend common hour meetings even if the common hour is extended due to Columbus responsibilities.
- Not all faculty teach in 80-minute time slots, so changing the class times will be more complicated than it may first seem.
- An alternative proposal was to not increase the common hour, allowing people to zoom in without judgement or shame, and alternating days for meetings so that the burden of in person meetings was shared by all.

- Another proposal involved having meetings involving heavy discussion at common hours when most people can attend in person, and having meetings that are more procedural or information at other times via zoom.
- Another proposal was to have more and shorter meetings during the normal common hours, or perhaps having half of the meetings in person and half of the meetings on zoom.
- Dean Anderman shared that a widely used Nature study showed that zoom meetings tend to hamper creative idea generation. Relatedly, meetings that are mixed in-person and zoom are often challenging to orchestrate.
- Common hour meetings may not be ideal because faculty often have classes immediately before and after, and there are often other meetings and events during that same time.
- It was suggested to send a survey to capture majority opinions on this issue.
- Another idea was to have people in Columbus congregate in Columbus for faculty meetings.
- Terri Bucci reiterated the point of research that indicates that groups larger than 10 are less productive than groups of smaller sizes and also mentioned a brain study indicating the connectives of participants in face-to-face versus zoom with the connectives as show in MRIs much stronger in face-to-face.
- Terri Bucci will be sending out a survey to gather feedback about the various suggestions to get a bigger picture about faculty perspectives for the purposes of finding a consensus solution to the issue

8. Additional Announcement

A workshop coordinated by Amy Brunell with the Drake Institute on ChatGPT and AI will be forthcoming.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm

Minutes taken and prepared by Phil Mazzocco, Faculty Secretary.