

Faculty and Professional Affairs Committee

March 16, 2016

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Heather McKeever Meral Arnavut
Amy Beers Christopher Taverna
Kevin Hahn Kevin Michki
Derrik Decker

Meeting called to order at 1:02pm by FPAC Chairperson Heather McKeever.

I. Action:

- *Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 25, 2016:*
 - Minutes approved unanimously.
- Welcome to the FPAC team, Kevin M.!

II. Continuation of CONFAC Discussion:

- *Report from Christopher Taverna, FPAC Liaison to CONFAC:*
 - The idea of establishing separate CONFAC standing committee of University Senate was discussed in further depth.
 - They were thrilled to learn that FPAC supports CONFAC in this effort.
 - The wording of the CONFAC mission statement will be similar to that of FPAC; language about liaisons from CONFAC has been removed, however. It would be unreasonable for CONFAC to be connected in this way to FPAC and not to any other standing committee.
 - When the proposal was introduced at a recent University Senate meeting, a faculty member questioned how leaders of standing committees would be compensated. Faculty members who are standing committee leaders are granted a course release for either semester; professional staff members who are standing committee leaders receive a \$2500.00 stipend, since course releases for professional staff members are not applicable.

III. Continuation of Web Site Discussion:

- Kevin M. volunteered to maintain our FPAC web site. (Thanks, Kevin!) However, Amy has learned that the web developers will not create any new web sites in Omni Update, as the campus is preparing to transition to Drupal.
- Amy and Kevin M. can both serve as administrators for the web site.
- Amy believes that she will be able to create the FPAC web site by late April. (Thanks, Amy!) Perhaps we can unveil the web site at our next meeting.
- Could we embed a Google form in our web site as an ongoing survey?
 - This form can be an anonymous way to submit concerns, and it could separate venting from true concerns.
 - The submissions will also inform our regular FPAC Open Forums.
 - "We hear you." This could be a possible tag line for our online form.
- The web site could include pictures of each of us. This way, we might be more likely to be approached as resources.

IV. Continuation of Faculty and Staff Engagement Discussion:

- As FPAC, we can try to clarify which outlets can be used to address problems (e.g., parking is negotiated by UUP).

- We want to accept our charges from the faculty and professional staff members who we represent, not necessarily from the University Senate.
- Heather acknowledged that it is difficult for FPAC members who are unable to attend the meetings to contribute to the Google documents. Without context, the comments offered might be unrelated to the discussion that prompted us to create the Google documents to begin with.
- Meral reiterated that she is proud of our new direction – listening to who we represent and working *for* them. This is a welcome change.
 - Christopher reminded us not to be discouraged by how long it might take to change the culture around FPAC and to change how FPAC is perceived. We will need to stay the course.
 - Amy commented that our work this year is a testament to what we have learned. FPAC members worked diligently last year to draft policies and revise the handbook, but nothing tangible resulted from this work.
- Amy mentioned that she would be willing to talk about FPAC during New Employee Orientation.
- Kevin M. suggested that we find ways to communicate and feature our FPAC mission statement and describe how we can help.
- Kevin M. also volunteered to create some new folders in our Google Drive to better organize our minutes and other documents.

V. Summary of Other Discussions:

- Derrik shared a story about a chair that disappeared from his office. Luckily, Derrik is connected enough here at Fredonia to know who to talk to as well as how to report these types of concerns. As a group, however, we realized that newer employees might not be as knowledgeable or as resourceful as Derrik. This story just further motivated FPAC's desire to be a resource for all faculty and staff members.
- We talked about whether it would be possible for FPAC to change its own charges. The consensus seems to be that the FPAC mission in the University Senate by-laws is articulated in such a general way that we would indeed be able to modify our own charges according to what we perceive as the needs of the faculty and staff who we represent.
- Kevin H. will send Kevin M. a list of FPAC member names; Kevin M. will transform this information into a Google document that lists all of our names and departments.

VI. Next Meeting:

- Another Doodle poll will be sent to schedule our next meeting; we will plan for early- to mid-April.

Meeting adjourned at 2:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Hahn