Faculty Senate Meeting Notes with President Oldham   **Nov. 25, 2024**

Present: Michael Allen, Megan Atkinson, Teddy Burch, Kris Craven, Mark Creter, Melissa Comer, Scott Christen, Andrew Donadio, Mary Lou Fornehed, Ka Grimes, Syed Hasan, Amy Hill, Alfred Kalyanapu, Krystal Kennedy, Richard LeBorne, David Mann, Ann Manginelli, Holly Mills, Jennifer Mabry, Michael Nattrass, Linda Null, Brian O'Connor*, Joseph Ojo, Hyewon Park, Sandi Smith-Andrews, Amber Spears, Leslie Suters, Steven Seiler, Thomas Timmerman, Kyle Turner, Kristen Trent, Hannah Upole, Brenda Wilson

Absent: Wei Tsun Chang, Yung Ding, Dennis Fennewald, Joshua Field, Jerry Gannod, Colin Hill, Christy Killman, Matthew Langford, Jeannette Luna, Melissa Geist, Twannelle Majors, Yi Peng, LeeAnn Shipley, Dennis Tennant, Kexin Xu, Lenly Weathers

Guests: President Oldham, Lee Wray

1. Retirement benefits for faculty and review of policy:
    a. Clarification: What benefits apply to retired faculty? (Such as emeritus status, membership at the Burn, use of library, etc.)
    b. **President Oldham:** I don't have a full answer for that. There are things attached to the emeritus designation, but I am not fully aware of what they are. Emeriti that remain active on campus have email and library privileges, but not everyone is granted that designation. There is a policy that governs that; I will be happy to look into that.
    c. Additional Discussion: Policies 663 and 213 cover aspects of retirement – says one can retire at end of semester. However, I was told by HR that I have to retire July 31. I was told by HR that Dec, May, July 31st are retirement dates according to HR. Those dates are not in policy. It would be a good thing to look at those policies (663 and 213). **President Oldham**: I am not aware of prohibiting someone from retiring at any point one chooses.

2. The purpose and impact of faculty evaluations of the administration?
    a. **President Oldham**: It gives the opportunity to provide input about the performance of administrators on campus. The data is collected and reviewed, assessed by the relevant individuals. if things are brought up that require attention, those things are dealt with, the response rate is very low; difficult to gain significant info from that survey;

3. Watermark – alignment with chain of command, and alignment with institutional policies.
    a. President Oldham: It enables faculty to input scholarly activity and can be used in tenure/promotion and annual evaluations. To my knowledge there is good alignment with institutional policies and capturing information electronically is beneficial.

*Amendment made per request at the Sept. 8, 2025, Business meeting to correct the attendance list from this Nov. 25, 2024, meeting.

b. Discussion: Watermark seems inflexible, intrusive. We can request changes to it if there are things that don't work like we want. If things need to be changed, we (faculty) need to communicate that.

4. Chat GPT Licenses: I recently learned that federal agencies are purchasing Chat GPT licenses for their employees. Can we get licenses for class use? Do we see this as a possibility for us?
    a. President Oldham: I would be surprised if the state wanted to do a special appropriation for AI. If there are new costs or changes that necessitate adaptive costs (for technology), we have some flexibility for that. I would encourage you to raise that issue through dean, provost, and academic affairs, and let the provost manage that resource allocation. There is some interest at the legislative level, but still a lot of questions around it – how to benefit and manage risks. We need to be leaders in this.
    b. Discussion: Other universities are in the discussion of AI. At a recent conference, many talks had something to do with AI. Another university has developed their own GPT engine relevant to their institution.

Such Other Matters:
- Thanks to President Oldham for giving us Wednesday before Thanksgiving and Christmas break. It was greatly appreciated!
- President Oldham: A reminder about Lighting Up the Quad

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