**MINUTES**

**FACULTY SENATE**

**November 18, 2009**

In attendance: Alexy, Allison, Al-Omaishi, Alves, Bender, Benoit, Borland, Curtis, Didi-Ogren, Edelbach, Heisler, Hunt, Kamber, Kang, Karsnitz, Leake, Li, Lovett, McCarty, McMahan Meola, Morin, Norvell, O’Connell, Rao, Ruscio, SanPedro, Speaker, Steele, Tang, Vivona, Wickramasinghe, and Winston.

Excused: Eberly, Hernandez, Jackson, Joshi, Michels, O’Brien, Petroff, Steinberg, Tate, and Vandegrift.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 21, 2009 meeting were accepted as distributed.

THE PIXELS

Concern over the graffiti on the Pixels was expressed. This is a good topic to discuss in classes. Contact Lois Fichner-Rathus or Deborah Hutton from the Art Department with questions or concerns. It was moved by John McCarty and seconded by Mort Winston that if the School of Arts and Communication, the Staff Senate, or the SGA proposed an event related to the Pixels and asked the Faculty Senate to co-sponsor the event we would do so. Motion passed unanimously.

JOINT GOVERNANCE RECEPTION

It was moved by Mort Winston and seconded by John Karsnitz to accept the nomination set forth by the SEB to receive a certificate of appreciation at this reception. Motion passed unanimously.

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

The purpose of these working groups is to present a document to the president and provost that lists areas on campus that faculty feel need improvements over the coming years. The following reports were given and discussion ensued on each: Student Issues, Assessment of Transformation, and Institutional Identity. The remaining reports from the working groups on Governance and Strategic Planning and on Support for Academic and Scholarly Programs will be discussed at the next senate meeting.

COLLEGEWIDE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

* Academic Programs (CAP) – John Karsnitz reported that CAP 1) recommended a new course approval process, course syllabus guidelines and a new Chinese minor; 2) is currently working on redefining academic program terms, including but not limited to minors, double and dual majors, specializations and concentrations; 3) is waiting on data to finish recommendations relating to academic load and student feedback on instruction.
* Faculty Affairs (CFA) – Jeanine Vivona reported that CFA: 1) has almost completed their work on the charge on Interdisciplinarity: to review the Promotions Document and to recommend revisions to encourage and recognize interdisciplinary teaching, scholarship, and service. Their final recommendation will be delivered to the Steering Committee by the end of the semester; 2) has 3 additional items remaining to complete work on the current Promotion Document – clarify grounds for rejecting an application for incompleteness, strengthen instructions for linking candidate evaluations to relevant Disciplinary Standards, and determine procedures for department voting on reappointment decisions. A final version of the Promotion Document, containing these changes and the changes related to the Interdisciplinary charge, will be delivered to Steering and Academic Affairs by the end of the semester, with the hope that these changes will be in effect for the 2010 promotion cycle. 3) recently received a charge to consider whether a policy for faculty office hours should be developed and, if so, what that policy should be. They will complete this work next semester.
* Planning & Priorities (CPP) – Mort Winston reported that 1) The major activity for CPP this year is oversee the preparation of TCNJ’s Middle States Periodic Review Report (PRR) that will be due in June 2010. They are in the process of preparing the first draft of this report, but are awaiting the results of the Faculty Senate’s review of the “10 Big Issues” before proceeding to draft the section of strategic objectives going forward. They are also engaged in a broader discussion about how best to implement a collegial strategic planning process going forward. 2) The CPP is determined to function this year as it was designed, that is, to be the central nexus for strategic planning at TCNJ. To this end they have begun receiving reports from some of the planning councils on their activities. So far they have heard from External Affairs about their ideas for enhancing and diversifying revenue. 3) CPP has also addressed and resolved the issue of reading days and final exams in the spring semester by deciding at their last meeting not to try again to find additional days, but to recommend other measures that can relieve student stress, such as institutionalizing the placement of one reading day on the Wednesday for final exam week. 4) CPP also recommended making October 18-19th the dates for fall break next year. 5) A subcommittee is currently revising a set of principles for approving graduate certificate programs and they expect to make a recommendation on this matter at their next meeting. 6) They also just received a new charge from the Steering Committee to look at a proposal from the SGA to institute an Honor Code for TCNJ students.
* Student & Campus Community (CSCC) – Wayne Heisler reported that CSCC’s draft of a Travel Policy for the College, which was submitted to Steering in May, 2009, has been under review by Thomas Mahoney. Following completion of the Counsel’s review, CSCC will work on revisions and eventually hold a campus-wide forum on the Policy. The timeline, however, is still unclear.
* Board of Trustees: John Allison reported that the board held a day-long Planning Retreat on November 11, 2009. Topics discussed included the mission of the College, our audiences, autonomy, diversifying revenue streams, the Town Center, Facilities/the Campus Physical Plan, Accountability and Transparency. There was also some discussion about what the board is doing and what the board could do in areas such as fundraising. Also, a plan was considered to bring legislators to campus, to educate them more, through TCNJ, on relevant topics concerning the needs of higher education.

UPCOMING EVENTS

* December 7 – 12:00 – SCP 117 - Faculty Senate Meeting
* January 20 – 12:00 – Music Concert Hall – All-Faculty Meeting with the Provost
* January 20 – 3:30 – 1855 Room – Joint Governance Reception
* March 3 – 12:00 – 1:00 – Music Concert Hall – Colloquium for Faculty Research & Creative Activity – Ellen Friedman

Respectfully submitted,

Paulette LaBar

Faculty Senate Staff Secretary