

Minutes of the Dornsife College Faculty Council Meeting

April 29, 2015

3:00-5:00 pm

Present: Eric Webb (President), Darren Ruddell (Vice President), Jeff Chisum (Secretary), Giorgio Coricelli, Ann Crigler, Erin Moore, Ed McCann, Wiebke Ziebis, Rod McKenzie, Lori Mesrobian, Thio Hogan-Esch, Bob Girandola, Dana Johnson, Sheila Briggs, Alison Dundes Renteln

1. Approval of the 4/1 Minutes: The Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the 4/1 DCFC meeting.

2. Summary of the 4/15 Academic Senate Meeting: DCFC Senate representatives briefly summarized items from the 4/15 meeting of the Academic Senate. Some highlights included:

- A brief dialogue with newly appointed Provost Michael Quick, who informed the Senate that he will “stay on course.”
- A report from the Senate Nominating Committee and introduction of candidates for open slots on the Senate Executive Board.
- Discussion on revisions to the Faculty Handbook, including items dealing with the way that sexual harassment cases are handled, and proposed changes to other chapters, including one which affords better job security protections for NTT faculty.
- A report from the Committee on Teaching and Academic Programs, with a special emphasis on new initiative in Residential Education, which may be of particular interest to the DCFC, given the College’s stake in the General Education experience.
- The Senate put out its annual call for volunteers for service on University-wide committees, asking the volunteers submit their names to the various Faculty Councils.

3. Review of the Meeting with the Dean: Looking ahead to the possible agenda for the 2015-2016 school year, the Council reviewed some of the takeaways from the 4/1 meeting with Dean Steve Kay. Of special note were the following:

- The Dean has agreed to meet with the Council twice a semester, and is presently scheduled to attend the October 7 and December 2 Council meetings.
- Computers. Dean Kay agreed to look into ways of ensuring that faculty have computers that are in good working order.
- The Council expressed a desire to follow up on the Dean’s assurances concerning “parity” in the way that professional development grants are given to Tenured, Tenure-Track, and NTT faculty.

4. Further Issues to Discuss: Outgoing President Webb and incoming President Ruddell solicited the Council for ideas on issues to cover in the upcoming year. Some of the topics included:

- Funding and budget issues.

- Class size (both the actual size of the classroom, and the enrollment).
- Ways of “incentivizing” teaching and the development of newer and better curricula.
- The physical condition of classrooms, including the functionality of technology.
- Teaching evaluations.
- Having a Faculty Council budget—e.g., a ~\$10,000 budget, with Faculty Council President’s oversight, for programming, events, invited speakers, and so on.
- A “caste system” where some NTT faculty are on a “Professor” promotional track and others are on a “Lecturer” track.
- Potentially establishing an anonymous “Drop Box” at Doheny Library or elsewhere, so that faculty can lodge complaints or express concerns about issues within the College.
- Faculty participation in the creation and implementation of curriculum, notably in the Languages departments.

5. A Call for Caucus Participation: The Officers asked the councilmembers—especially the newly elected members—to think about which of the DCFC Caucuses they would like to participate on.

6. A “Thank You” for President Webb: The Council offered outgoing President Eric Webb a final round of applause in gratitude for his service and leadership during the 2014-2015 school year, and on that note, Presidency of the Dornsife Faculty Council was passed on to Darren Ruddell.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Chisum
Secretary, Dornsife Faculty Council