

Academic Policies and Services Committee

Vanderbilt University Faculty Senate

Report of Academic Year 2013-14

Chair: Agnes B. Fogo, Medical School

Committee Members;

Agnes Fogo, Chair, Medicine
Jeffrey Johnston, A&S [Executive Committee Liaison]
Howard Kirshner, Medicine
Shelagh Mulvaney, Nursing
Michael Mihalik, A&S
Buddy Creech, Medicine
Betsy Kennedy, Nursing
Myrna Wooders, A&S
David Wright, A&S
Mel Zeigler, A&S

Charges assigned at the beginning of the year:

1. Review new degree programs.
2. Evaluate faculty satisfaction with CTTC with focus on new revenue sharing policies implemented in 2011-2012.
3. Review existing and planned changes in IT infrastructure and support.
4. Ongoing efforts on initiative to create a professional training program for new department chairs across the university.
5. Organize communication with MOOC taskforce.

Work done:

1. No new degree programs were submitted within the working time of the committee.
2. Evaluate faculty satisfaction with CTTC new revenue sharing policies:
The committee met with Alan R. Bentley from CTTC who shared with us a survey focused on use. Based on this information, the committee met again to develop a survey instrument that focused on new revenue sharing policies (see attachment). This has been finalized in draft form and has been approved to send to the faculty via VIRG.
3. Review existing and planned changes in IT infrastructure and support:
The committee discussed the meeting of the chief information officer John Lutz planned for October 22nd with the executive faculty senate committee meeting. We discussed that only a very limited number of people are allowed to look at specific emails for very specific purposes. The committee did no further investigation into this area.
4. Professional training for new departmental chairs:
The committee discussed the slide set developed by John Penn for new chairs of the medical center. We noted that this does not translate to the roles of the chairs within the University in general. Tim McNamara and Dawn Turton were identified as contacts for this planned training. The committee chair spoke with Tim McNamara, who shared the outline for the training for departmental chairs with the committee.
The planned topics include:

Understanding and Avoiding Legal Problems with Faculty, Staff, and Students

Conducting a Successful Search

Faculty Performance Review and Development

Panel of Experienced Chairs – Sample Topics:

- Transitioning to the Role of Chair
- How to Maintain a Collegiate Department
- Things I Wish I had Known When I Became Chair

The committee gave feedback to Tim McNamara that it might be useful to also have additional training for staff that are key support personnel for incoming chairs. Staff might be included in part of the retreat, or receive separate training to optimize the functions of the chair

5. Organize communication with MOOC taskforce:
6. The committee identified Rangaraj Ramanujam as the key leader of the task force examining broad issues related to MOOC's. The committee decided to not replicate the efforts of this taskforce. The committee chair met with Rangaraj Ramanujam , and the information regarding MOOCs was shared with the committee. Key elements that will be considered for MOOCs are issues of intellectual property rights, conflict of commitment and assessment of learning outcomes for those participating in MOOC's. These will be explored in depth by the taskforce.

Recommendations for next year and beyond:

1. Distribute the CTTC survey and analyze results. Based on results, recommendations might be made for enhanced communication regarding the revenue sharing system and impact on faculty and the university.
2. Continue communication with the taskforce regarding MOOCs.
3. Seek follow up information from Tim McNamara and Dawn Turton regarding the retreat orientation for new chairs.