

Faculty Advisory Council

October Minutes

Date: 11 October 2005

Time: 8:30 – 9:45

Place: Horovitz Building, President's Dining Room

Present: Donald Antonson (HPD/CDM), Melanie Crandall (HPD/OPT), Frank De Piano (Academic Affairs), Morton Diamond (HPD/CAHN), Jan Faust (CPS), Stan Hannah (FSEHS), , Bob Preziosi (Huizenga), Marlisa Santos (FCAS), Ken Seger (HPD/OPT), Fran Tetunic (Law), Ines Velez (HPD/CDM), and Lenore Walker (CPS).

Absent: Robert Casady (HPD/CMS), Jonathan Coffman (HPD/MED), Jean-Mathieu Essis (SHSS), George Fornshell (GSCIS), Marliese Hogan (FSEHS), Leanne Lai (HPD/COP), Sean Kennan (OC), Mike Masinter (Law), Michael Patterson (HPD/COM), Anne Rambo (SHSS), and Pan Yatrakis* (Huizenga).

* Emailed to report scheduling conflict

1. Approval of 13 September Minutes

2. Faculty Club Update—Jan Faust, Frank De Piano, Melanie Crandall, Ken Seger, Fran Tetunic, Don Antonson, Bob Preziosi, and Lenore Walker

Dr. Faust reported that the document summarizing the purpose of the Faculty Club had been sent to Dr. Hanbury. She also asked the FAC members to help with the informal survey of Faculty Club best practices. Jan then circulated a sample questionnaire that could be used to collect data about best practices from other faculty clubs. Drs. Crandall, Tetunic, Velez, Walker, and Antonson volunteered to call Faculty Clubs from a wide-range of universities.

3. FAC Website—Morton Diamond, Lenore Walker, Don Antonson, Frank De Piano, and Lenore Walker

The council members unanimously agreed that the FAC web site needed to offer new services to NSU's faculty. More specifically, the council recommended that the web site should highlight faculty achievements and publicize events of interest to the faculty such as the Faculty Symposium. The council also recommended that the site should be interesting and offer current information that would be deemed relevant by NSU's faculty. The site should also be expanded to provide facilities for faculty discussions.

4. Special Events—Bob Preziosi, Lenore Walker, Frank De Piano, Don Antonson, Stan Hannah, and Morton Diamond

Dr. Preziosi noted that the council should think about expanding the Faculty Symposium by inviting guest speakers on current topics that would be of interest to most of the faculty. As an example, he suggested that we might host a special event on Positive Organizational Scholarship. The FAC might also consider hosting a special event on hurricane relief. Dr. Walker added that we might also want to invite members from the local community. Dr. De Piano reminded the council that the FAC has a budget, so we could request funding for outside speakers. Dr. Diamond agreed that these ideas had considerable potential, but he added that it might be best if the Faculty Symposium continued its present format by having NSU faculty members as the Symposium speakers.

Several council members suggested the FAC might also consider giving CEUs for special presentations. Since the Office of Continuing Education already provides CEU programs, the council felt that CEU programs should be left in the capable hands of the Office of Continuing Education.

Morton Diamond and Stan Hannah asked the council for ideas about possible Faculty Symposium topics. Dr. Antonson mentioned that “Extreme Makeovers” might be a topic that would be of interest to a wide-range of the faculty.

5. Academic Review—Frank De Piano, Morton Diamond, Don Antonson, Jan Faust, Melanie Crandall, Bob Preziosi, Ken Seger, Fran Tetunic and Lenore Walker

Dr. De Piano suggested that a possible direction for the ARC would be to focus attention on common areas identified in NSU’s academic programs. In particular, the council would identify obvious areas of concern such as the curriculum. The areas of concern would be areas that were clearly the responsibility of the faculty. For instance, faculty development remains a critical success factor for the university. In addition, faculty development is clearly a strategic priority for the university because it is central to improving academic excellence.

An animated discussion took place in which the members of the FAC debated about how the council should approach the issue of faculty development. Dr. Antonson and Dr. Crandall noted that the lack of faculty was a serious problem for their programs. Dr. Diamond stated that the council should not limit its suggestions to hiring more faculty and increasing spending on research facilities, but rather on developing faculty. While such suggestions had merit, Dr. Diamond pointed out the council’s recommendations should emphasize ways in which the university’s resources could be used to bring about the maximum improvement in academic quality.

The council agreed to look at the complex issue of faculty development and identify key areas that should be priorities in the university's strategic plan. To accomplish this formidable task, a sub-committee was formed to review the ARC data and then report back to the FAC with a list of academic measures that should be included in the report to President Ferrero. The members of the sub-committee are Drs. Jan Faust, Lenore Walker, Fran Tetunic, Morton Diamond, Ken Seger, and Frank De Piano agreed to serve as a resource person to the sub-committee. The council concluded that the report to the President would be a vital step towards building a meaningful dialog with the top administration about the changing roles and duties of the faculty and also could seem to serve the relationship and trust that is developing between faculty and the President.

6. FAC Meeting Dates for Academic Year 2005-2006

12 July 2005
 9 August 2005
 13 September 2005
 11 October 2005
 8 November 2005
 13 December 2005
 10 January 2006
 14 February 2006
 14 March 2006
 11 April 2006
 9 May 2006
 13 June 2006