

Faculty Assembly Minutes February 9, 2012

Call to Order: Carlie Phipps called the meeting to order at 12:25 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The December 8, 2011 minutes were approved.

C. Phipps introduced Kevin Volo. K. Volo has been hired as an instructional technologist and can assist faculty with incorporating technology into their classes. K. Volo will be setting up a blog.

Planning and Budgeting Committee

The Planning and Budgeting Committee proposed a policy on program discontinuance which addresses multiple paths for program discontinuance. The policy was distributed at the December faculty assembly meeting. The floor was open for discussion. L. Weiser-Erlandson expressed concern for programs that meet regional needs that are not necessarily technology focused. R. Sarnier stated that the policy takes into consideration the college's mission. A motion was made to amend Item 4 and change the word "all" to "the majority of". The amendment passed with one opposition. The policy on program discontinuance was adopted.

Academic Affairs Committee

D. Silsbee reported that graduation honors was brought to the committee's attention by the registrar's office. The current system is for the top 15% of each graduating class. The GPA that qualifies students for honors changes from class to class. The policy change would reflect honors based on certain GPA criteria. The policy will not take effect until the next catalog is published. A motion was made to amend the effective date to "policy will be implemented as soon as is practicable." The amendment passed and the graduation honors policy was adopted.

A motion was introduced to allow students who already have bachelor's degrees from institutions in which the primary language instruction is in English to waive the upper division writing requirement. The motion passed.

A motion was introduced to accept up to 76 lower-division transfer credit hours instead of 64 when a student is accepted. SUNYIT is experiencing a loss of enrollment due to the number of credits we accept at the time of admission. This policy change will make SUNYIT more competitive. Academic departments have until March 1, 2012 to decide if they wish to have their program participate. It was suggested that we may want to define a "minimum" number of upper division credits for a BS degree. R. Sarnier stated that we already have a residency policy. The policy states that students may transfer all "**applicable**" lower-division credits. D. Silsbee stated that this policy will be re-visited next year after we see how this works out in the upcoming year. W. Yeigh made a motion to table the discussion on this policy in order for the academic affairs committee to review the policy

again; L. Francis-Gladney seconded. After discussion, W. Yeigh withdrew the motion. A motion was made to “request that the academic affairs committee draft a policy for minimum upper division credit requirements.” A motion was made to temporarily suspend Robert’s Rules; motion passed with two opposed. The motion passed to “request that the academic affairs committee draft a policy for minimum upper division credit requirements.” R. Yeh stated that if we are not teaching as many upper division courses this will have an effect on faculty workload. The policy will also impact revenue because students attend SUNYIT for a shorter amount of time. The motion to accept up to 76 lower-division transfer credits passed; 5 opposed.

C. Phipps stated that the faculty assembly executive committee is working on a tracking system of resolutions and motions that have been approved by faculty assembly.

General Education Committee

W. Johnston stated that the General Education Committee proposes that a committee of general education faculty be created. This “ad hoc” committee would serve under the Provost since most of the responsibility falls under the administrative category. The chair of the ad hoc committee would have a seat on the Provost’s Council. The ad hoc committee would consult with the General Education Committee. Decisions made by the Provost’s Council do not require Faculty Assembly approval. The question was asked if the ad hoc committee will make decisions on what courses are general education when not taken at a SUNY school. The motion from the committee was tabled.

Graduate Council

A motion was introduced to change the status of full-time graduate students from 12 to 9 credit hours per semester, which is the standard across the SUNY system. The motion passed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.