

Faculty Council Meeting
November 15th, 2006

Members Attending: Michael Green, Tina Hefner, JoAnn Springs, Richard Hartshorne, Jeff Passe, Lil Brannon, Kelly Anderson, Hank Harris, Mary Lynne Calhoun.

9:35 Meeting called to order by Lil Brannon.

Minutes from the previous 10/18/06 meeting were approved.

I. Dean's Report:

- Course Evaluations: Mary Lynne addressed the possibility of arranging proctors for course evaluations. Logistically the arrangement of proctors could be extremely difficult. In the past when graduate assistants were scheduled to proctor, several did not show up for the course evaluations as arranged. Barbara Edwards has reviewed the policy for the administration of course evaluations as outlined in the University Handbook. The COE is in compliance with the university guidelines. At this time, it is up to Department Chairs individually to schedule and use graduate assistants as proctors. However, the use of GAs as proctors would be a department decision.
- As an item of interest – Department Chairs attended a meeting with Provost Lorden. The purpose of the meeting was for Provost Lorden to share the results from the Faculty Satisfaction Survey. UNCC ratings for clarity of RPT document somewhat low as compared to similar institutions. We definitely have some growing to do in this area. The results from the Faculty Satisfaction reports will be folded into our COE analysis of data in the spring 2007. The suggestion was made to have focus group sessions with our COE junior faculty to obtain more specific feedback regarding the RPT document and other related issues.
- Mary Lynne has been invited to attend a meeting in Raleigh focusing on what should we (politicians, DPI) be doing to help with the preparation of teachers? Only a few other COE Deans were invited in this important discussion. The Bowles initiative is going well in playing out assistance to institutions involved in teacher preparation. Mary Lynne has provided a 13 point action plan in response to Bowles initiative.

II. Discussion of the COE's Honor Program:

- A revised proposal was disseminated at the meeting. The following are areas Michael Green noted specific revisions: #2 – inclusive, #5, #1, page 2 – includes Foreign Language.
- There was a follow-up discussion pertaining to the inclusion of COED students outside of our majors (i.e., Art, Foreign Language, and Theater).
- Admittance by scholarship only? Departments will get to determine if other criteria beyond scholarship will be used in determining admittance.
- The question was raised about secondary majors who may not decide to complete student teaching – Would this exclude them from participation in the Honors Program?
- Everyone agreed there would need to be maintenance criteria established and monitored as the program is implemented.

- Michael Green raised the concern about making the criteria in Item #1 of the proposal too narrow. It was suggested that knowledge, skills, and dispositions be included in the statement.
- An additional question was raised as to 'who' should be involved in the directing of thesis projects. For now, individual departments will be responsible to identify faculty to oversee students and projects.
- Clarification was raised as to 'who' is eligible to apply to the COE Honors Program? Any education student.
- Concern was raised that with the required GPA being 3.85, we (in the COE) will see an influx of grade inflation, etc. It was determined that we needed to 'live out' the proposed program, then make necessary adjustments accordingly.

Action:

Motion to recommend to the COE faculty at the COE meeting on 1/12 with revisions.

Motion approved.

III. Discussion surrounding the statement from REEL concerning junior faculty being told to not speak out until receiving tenure:

- Most departments don't have this issue.
- Should this topic be brought forward? Or, does bringing it forward only make it worse?
- How do we (COE) deal with this issue?
- Suggestion was made that in the next revision of the COE's Conceptual Framework this issue be addressed. Could also be taken to discussion with the A/CI (Accreditation & Continuous Improvement) Committee this year.

Action:

Motion made to table this discussion for now.

Meeting Adjourned