

MINUTES, HSS CFC
OCTOBER 27, 2010

Attending: Mark Patterson, Mel Fein, Gerrit Voogt, Tom Doleys, Michael Firment, Cindy Bowers (Chair), Rich Vengroff (Dean), Chuck Aust. (for Deanna Womack).

1. Minutes of Sept 22, 2010 meeting approved.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion of Digital Measures continued regarding improving response rates. Some ideas put forward included awards for participation (parking space, priority registration, book vouchers) and the possibility of withholding grades until evals are completed (a non-starter). Students' participation is their choice and they really cannot be forced to evaluate their professors.

The effect of on-line evaluations on T&P decisions was discussed and as we know faculty in HSS have the option of using both paper and on-line evaluations this semester. We also discussed the use of on-line cvs which at the moment are a voluntary component of Digital Measures. However, other USG institutions ARE using the online cv material in T&P deliberations, especially its quantitative ability to measure or count publication, creative activity, service, etc. At this point, KSU has no intention of using this optional component in this way.

2. Discussion continued of On-Line degrees. Thus far, Psychology and Sociology are putting forth a major; Communications is still considering. Students will have up to six years to complete a fully online degree. We discussed Dr. Tammy Powell's copious literature dealing with issues such as cheating and of course on successful design of online degrees.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Although discussed as part of the Digital Measures conversation, the topic of Gen Ed , USG Core Curriculum Learning Goals, and assessment was brought up. There is some discomfort with the "reverse engineering" of outcomes and the distribution of assessment of goals. For example, Global Perspectives has been "assigned" to TPS and there were questions about how and why. More faculty input is needed on the Gen Ed Committee to amend or expand what is understood by "assessment" and how our majors are accomplishing them and how they are meant to assess them.
2. Dean Vengroff reported on his very favorable impression of HSS faculty going up for tenure and promotion this year. Twenty-three assistants went up for associate, and nine associates to full professor. Our quality of teaching is very good as is our faculty's commitment to and production of scholarship and service. The 23 assistants produced 115 articles and 45 professional academic book chapters, the majority of which was produced during their time as KSU faculty. Those petitioning for full profession produced 97 articles, 25 book chapters, and 13 books. The flexibility of the FPA was commended in part for this admirable production of scholarship. (The Dean also mentioned his emphasis upon research during his discussions with new hires.)

Given the strengthening emphasis on scholarship, the question arose concerning how T&P committees might be able to deal with the considerable labor involved in reading and evaluating their colleagues' scholarship. Division of labor, evaluation of journals in which scholarship appears, increasing the time committees have for evaluation were all discussed. A path to Senior Lecturer for assistants failing to attain promotion was also mentioned.

3. A question arose concerning conflicts between hiring committees and full faculty approval of new hires. Other departments vest the committees with the ranking of candidates; faculty may vote yes or no on the ranking, but no veto power is vested in faculty who have or have not attended presentations or dinners with candidates.