Summary of the first meeting of the UA Faculty Senate for the 2015-2016 Academic Year
Monday, August 31, 2015

Approved Minutes of previous meetings, plus agenda, reports from Faculty Officers, ASUA, GPSC, APAC and the Provost and President are available at: http://facultygovernance.arizona.edu

REPORT BY PROVOST COMRIE

- RCM Budget Principles developed by the Strategic Planning and Budget Advisory Committee (SPBAC) were given to the college deans with their budget planning packets. Goals for the Provost’s Office include making sure that the RCM details and support goals are carried through.
- The cluster hiring process is underway, and letters in response to the proposals are being sent out.
- Internet Technology security is on-going with hacking incidents and compromised web presence from individuals as well as foreign governments.
- The UA Foundation has had some leadership changes.
- Academic Program Reviews and Promotion and Tenure reviews are underway in the Provost’s Office.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT HART (SENIOR ASSOCIATE TO THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF THE UNIVERSITY, JON DUDAS FOR PRESIDENT HART)

- ABOR will generate a brief strategic plan with a goal to better maneuver the statewide enterprise with policy makers and legislators.
- Senior ABOR leadership and the Presidents of the three in-state Universities met with the Governor to discuss new plans to better fund higher education.
- ABOR is working with the Universities on Regulator Reform that will allow for more flexibility and incentives for each University to be innovative.

Action Item: Creation of a Senate Information Technology ad hoc committee was approved.

A STRUCTURED DISCUSSION AMONG SENATORS ON RESEARCH AND DISCOVERY – SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH AND DISCOVERY KIMBERLY ESPY AND CHAIR OF COMMITTEE OF ELEVEN, STEVEN SCHWARTZ

Schwartz opened the discussion and reminded Senators about issues raised in Committee of Eleven White Paper last year:
http://facultygovernance.arizona.edu/sites/facgov/files/white_paper_for_website.pdf

Senior VP Espy highlighted the following
- The Office of Research and Discovery takes seriously its responsibility in facilitating scholarship creative activity and research across campus. When thinking about growing the research enterprise, faculty must realize that the federal budget of available dollars is shrinking.
- The Research Development Services Network aids faculty in the acquisition of large proposals. Since June 2014, the network has assisted in over $143M in proposals. Other achievements have been sponsored workshops, early career awards, and partnering with the UA Confluence Center to raise the visibility in the arts and social sciences.
- Conversations with the UA Foundation looks at new ways to raise money for Interdisciplinary research endeavors that are complementary to the UA’s college-based funding structure.
- A new Associate Vice President for Business Development has been recruited and is charged with procuring contracts for faculty at the University and broadening college-level interactions at the institutional level.
- Associate Vice President for Research, Neal Armstrong is leading an initiative to restructure the Office to focus on opportunities using a solution-oriented approach.
- Total research expenditures for FY15 are up from FY14.