University Faculty Affairs Committee (UFAC) Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 23, 2024, 1:00 pm

Virtual Meeting Through Zoom

Attendance: Amrita Dhar, Smita Jain Oxford, Bradley Lamphere, Miriam Liss, Kyle Schultz (secretary), Jessica Zeitz (chair)

Continuing Business

February 2 Meeting Minutes: UFAC reviewed and approved the minutes from the February 2 meeting prior to the meeting through asynchronous communication.

Faculty Morale Report: During the 2/21 UFC meeting, members asked UFAC to clarify recommendations made at the conclusion of the Faculty Morale Survey report. Specifically, the request entailed identifying who should be tasked with the actions described. The group briefly discussed this issue and tabled it for further discussion.

Unrelated to this issue, UFAC identified readministering this survey after the academic organization initiative and using the existing data as a baseline for comparison to determine the impact of the academic affairs organization on faculty morale.

Faculty Workload Analysis: Prior to this meeting, UFAC requested the past Faculty Workload report (Provost Levin era) and a list of faculty special assignments from the Provost. During the meeting, UFAC discussed methods for processing the retrieved faculty teaching assignment data. Considerations regarding departmental differences were made, as well as potential irregularities that could affect the results (e.g., overloads, double sections not listed as such). More information will be needed from individual academic units regarding their practices. One approach being considered is a two-pronged approach focusing on (1) analyzing data scraped from Banner and previous reporting and (2) surveying each department, COE, and COB. UFAC will work to develop instrument for the second part. In addition, UFAC questioned how the recommendations resulting from this analysis would lead to action given budget constraints, enrollment numbers, and curricular differences.

New Business

Academic Affairs Organization: UFC is facilitating a means for faculty to provide input and will send an email to faculty with a linked survey for this purpose.

The meeting concluded at 2:10 pm.