SOE Academic Council minutes, February 21, 2018 meeting

Meeting called to order: 10:05 am
Present: Kate Phillippo (Chair); Samantha Etzkorn; Brad MacDonald; Mike Boyle; Wendy Johnson; Demetri Morgan; Yver Melchor; Lynne Golumb; Amy Shuffelton; Meng-Jia Wu; David Slavsky (ex officio)

January minutes: approved (unanimous)

Consent Agenda:
A. Curriculum Committee approved the following: Course Title Change for TLSC 407 and a new course, Teaching Internship in Informal Education Settings. Passed: 10-0
B. Change to bylaws, Article 2A passed 10-0.

Reports
A. Committee reports: available on Sakai
B. Administration: David Slavsky reported on the following subjects:
   • CAEP report has been submitted and received. DS acknowledged the large amount and high quality put into this report by many members of the SOE, with particular thanks to Siobhan Cafferty and Eilene Edejer.
   • DS stepping down from union negotiation team in order to dedicate his time to his two other full-time positions
   • DS reiterated the importance of considering the economic feasibility of all proposed new programs. In a 2/19/18 email to AC members, DS requested that AC send back to their proposers two CC-approved and AC-approved changes: to the 5-year math program and the M.Ed in English. In that email, he asked that “AC contact the proposers and request that they include the information discussed above, with the explicit understanding that SOE will be able to be more vigilant in monitoring all enrollments, and will be continuously assessing the viability of our programs.” At the meeting, DS asked us all to make use of available university offices that will study economic feasibility before submitting new program proposals to the CC.
   • On Leadership Council, which currently consists of all program chairs (1 vote per program), 1 clinical faculty representative, 1 staff representative, assessment coordinator, and chair of AC: reiteration that LC’s charge is to work with the Dean’s office on strategic planning. AC remains the body in charge of determining academic policy within the School of Education. Question raised by Dean for further discussion: is the current committee structure and representation making the best use of faculty time and energies? Question raised by Demetri Morgan about transparency of LC. DS promises to address this.
C. No report from staff
D. No report from students

Old Business
A. Faculty Evaluation Committee: is currently working on an improved evaluation protocol.
B. Diversity Committee: Markeda Newell reports that Diversity Committee will return to a focus on professional development in the area of diversity, stepping away from the responsibility it has taken in the past year for addressing all climate issues in the School of Education. In response to AC member questions and comments, MN noted that the Diversity Committee has worked with other standing committees on diversity projects and will continue to do so. Also, that international students have generally been treated as falling under the scope of the International Committee rather than Diversity but that this should perhaps be revisited. Discussion ensued on climate: do we need a new committee? Or should the work be spread among existing committees?

*Motion: AC chair shall craft a letter to all faculty and staff of the School of Education reporting on climate issues. This letter shall include: work being done, and an invitation for people to get involved through the Academic Council and its sub-committees. Furthermore, the AC shall continue to monitor climate issues and will remain invested in improvements.* Morgan motion, MacDonald second. Passed: 9-0

*Motion: AC chair shall ask the Dean to include time at a future meeting to discuss climate* Morgan motion, MacDonald second. Passed: 9-0

C. Review of AC Bylaws: Article 2
Noted that at present, Articles 2a and 2b are not in agreement, as with 9 faculty, 2 staff, 2 undergraduate students, and 2 graduate students, there is not 2/3 faculty representation. Suggested by Brad MacDonald that 1 undergraduate will suffice; suggested also that 1 more faculty member at large could be added.

*Motion: Add one faculty-at-large to the membership, bringing total at large members to 3, total faculty to 10. Change undergraduate representation to 1 voting member and 1 member ex officio.* Morgan motion; Golomb second. Passed: 9-0

D. Procedures for committee member replacement due to leave
Discussion connected back to DS suggestion that AC might want to reconsider representation on existing committees. Members suggested that AC might want to revisit all its committees, some of which may exist because of tradition rather than need, also that AC should consider whether some of these committees’ functions might more appropriately be shifted to new sub-committees of LC.

*Motion: Hold special AC meeting to discuss sub-committees, in advance of this year’s elections for 2018-19 committees.* Morgan motion; MacDonald second. Passed 9-0.

New Business:
A. Clinical Faculty promotion criteria: report from Kate Phillippo that Pam Fenning will represent full professors on this committee. 4 clinical faculty are running for 3 elected positions, elections pending. Appt. of representative by dean’s office pending, but dean expressed his full support for this project.