

Christopher Newport University
General Faculty Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2004. 12:15 p.m.
SC 150

- I. **The meeting was called to order** by Faculty Senate President Dr. Virginia Purtle at 12:25 p.m. Since a quorum was already present, it was agreed to move agenda item II, Certification of December Graduates, to the floor as the first order of business.
- II. **Certification of graduates** passed unanimously.
- III. **Senate Initiatives Dialogue:** President Purtle. President Purtle updated the faculty on various Senate initiatives underway. Any faculty member who wishes to provide ideas or suggestions in any of these areas is encouraged to contact the committee chair or President Purtle.
 - a. **Senate Communications.** In order to speed the delivery of information to the faculty about Senate debates and actions, the Senate is approving minutes via email on a trial basis (until February). Approving minutes at Senate meetings results in at least a one-month delay in getting information out to the faculty. If anyone has ideas for ways the Senate can better communicate with faculty, please let us know.
 - b. **Retention Committee.** The Senate's committee, chaired by Dr. Dave Doughty, was formed to study an unusual pattern of retention problems at CNU. While our numbers are similar to those of comparable schools in terms of freshman retention, we also lose students between the sophomore-junior year, and the junior-senior year. The university has hired a consultant to help study this issue, and the Senate's committee will likely be folded into a broader university-wide team under the consultant's guidance to address these problems.
 - c. **Advising Committee.** Chaired by Dr. Peter Knipp, this committee is studying ways to enhance the freshman advising process and student connections to the university.
 - d. **Faculty Governance Committee.** Chaired by Dr. Lori Underwood, this committee is focusing on strengthening faculty governance and eliminating inconsistencies from the University Handbook. Part of this charge is to study the composition of the Senate, and examining ways to balance discipline representation there.
 - e. **Outside Consulting Policy.** Point of contact: Dr. Rebecca Wheeler. No guidelines presently exist at CNU regarding how much time faculty

members can spend on consulting work, and this committee is charged with researching and proposing these and related guidelines.

- f. **Time in Rank for Associate to Full Professor.** Points of contact: Dr. Rebecca Wheeler and Dr. Virginia Purtle. The current time in rank for promotion specified in the University Handbook is 7 years. This initiative (in consultation with the Provost) is directed toward providing a chance for exceptional faculty members to become eligible for promotion before 7 years.
- g. **Sabbatical Policy Review Committee:** Chaired by Dr. Lori Underwood. This committee was established at the request of Dean Gordon.
- h. **Compensation for Study Abroad Activities Committee.** Chaired by Dr. Quentin Kidd. This committee will study how to appropriately compensate faculty members for organizing such programs.
- i. **Review of Advanced Placement Credit Committee.** Chaired by Dr. Michelle Vachris, this committee has already reported its findings and made recommendations, in conjunction with the affected departments, to bring CNU's AP credit policies in line with comparable universities. The recommendations can be found in the Dec. 3 Faculty Senate Agenda.
- j. **Faculty Awards for Teaching/Service/Scholarship.** This awards program was created by the Senate last year, and the Provost has asked the Senate to establish the details of the program, including qualifications and nomination procedures. Such an internal program will not only recognize excellence at CNU, it will also benefit those faculty members who are nominated for SCHEV teaching awards and must prepare packages for that nomination.
- k. **Action Item.** The Senate sent a letter to the Provost regarding a proposed School of Business reorganization, stating that the Senate believes the duties of department chairs in the School of Business should remain consistent with those in CLAS.

President Purtle also stated that the Senate and the university administration have worked well together in the last 2-3 years, and that interactions between these groups have been smooth. In order to enhance communication, Senate committees now include administrators, and the full Senate meets once or twice each semester with President Tribble, Provost Summerville, and any other administrators it asks to see. In addition, the Senate Executive Committee meets once or twice each semester with President Tribble, Provost Summerville, and others. President Purtle noted that the Senate and the administration are working effectively together: she noted that the President, the Provost, and the Vice President for Student Affairs have all approached

the Senate this year looking for advice and input on various matters affecting the university.

At this point, President Purtle opened the floor to ask if there were other issues that faculty members wished to raise as concerns for the Senate. Hearing none, the body moved to the last item on the agenda.

III. Sense of the Faculty regarding Broadcast Email Policy. The Senate would like to understand how the faculty feels about not being able to broadcast email to all faculty members at CNU and invited comments. These included the following concerns:

- It's difficult to get information out about academic events like the Dean Parks lecture series. Putting individual names into an email list is tough. We need to reinstitute a list like "faculty@cnu" or fac/staff@cnu.
- The inability to send email to all faculty not only affects the flow of information, it also affects the sense of community. When the faculty have no way to talk with each other over email, there is a loss of community.
- It would be useful if we could have only directed information, instead of general information that not everyone needs (like timesheet notifications), flowing into faculty inboxes. Perhaps faculty could sign up for the types of information they would like to receive via email?
- Senator Doyle, a member of the Academic Technology Advising Committee, noted that it might be possible to set up discussion boards for faculty to discuss issues and read announcements, but this would require logging into the portal for access. Faculty members seemed less enthusiastic about logging into another area to gain this information.
- Chairs of university committees (such as the UCC) really need to be able to communicate with faculty to provide information about deadlines and procedures
- Messages about campus activities should be given priority in dissemination. After all, the education provided here extends beyond the classroom.

Adjournment: 12:50 p.m.