

Minutes of FAP Meeting #3 AY2020-21

8 August 2020

3:15 PM - 4:15 PM

Meeting Held Electronically via ZOOM

Members Attending: Nancy Burnham (Chair), Joseph Fehribach (FBC Chair), George Pins (RPC Representative, Secretary, *pro tem*), Jeff Solomon (Executive Vice President/CFO)

Member Absent: Mike Radzicki (Secretary); Kris Sullivan (Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs)

- The meeting was called to order by the chair at 15:15.
- Minutes of the FAP meetings #1 and #2 for AY 20—21 were approved
- Discussion of the AY 2020-21 Budget (Covid Budget):
 - Re-opening plans are status quo. With regard to tuition flow, the numbers of students and billing are on point, but cash flow is behind schedule. Revised numbers and course registration will be resolved in the next week or two.
 - There was discussion about continued concerns among faculty and staff regarding reopening online versus Techflex or in person. Specifically, FAP discussed the chain of command with regard to faculty and staff choices to work remotely, hybrid or in person. It was noted that the CERT discussed this at length, listened to faculty and staff feedback, made modifications to the policy and resolved this issue.
 - A few minutes were spent discussing clear and transparent communication regarding the COVID and fall reopening. It was noted that the CERT continues to be receptive to feedback regarding the transparency of policies, and is making every effort to communicate them in a timely manner.
- Discussion of the AAUP's Annual Report on the Economic Status of the Profession.
 - It was noted from the AAUP Annual Report that, "Almost 97 percent of full-time faculty members earn additional compensation in the form of contributions by the institution or state or local government toward retirement plans, with an average expenditure of 10.7 percent of the average salary of faculty members who are covered." This is inconsistent with the administration's report to the WPI faculty that the average retirement benefit to faculty at peer institutions was 8.7%. It was noted that WPI benchmarked their number with both Huron and peer institutions. The AAUP numbers come from a larger, national database. FAP will investigate the sources of this data further and report back to the faculty.
- Discussion regarding AAUP comments on the role of faculty in development and allocation of budgets.
 - FAP expressed an interest in having faculty more involved in the budget development process in the future. In the future (hopefully by late fall), the administration hopes to restore the shared budget development process that involves inclusive faculty feedback.

- Discussion regarding faculty queries about savings realized from the Global Scholarship Program.
 - The administration budgeted \$ 5.7 M to the rising junior class for the Global Scholarship Program. Since students will not be travelling in A/B terms, WPI will instead give students \$1000 for similar projects. Unspent Global Scholarship money will be reallocated to operating budgeting for the institution.
- Brief Discussions of Other Topics:
 - Discussion regarding the increased faculty workload related to flipping classes, etc.... – CFO Solomon recognized this concern, and will communicate this back to the President.
 - Queries on the news stories about the lawsuits filed against WPI with regard to the Legacy Golf and Tennis Club in Florida that Robert Foisie donated to WPI. CFO Solomon declined to comment, because of ongoing legal proceedings.
 - Prof. Fehribach informed FAP that FBC will be meetings in the coming week to discuss health benefits changes that came out of the WPI Forward Steering Committee.
 - CFO Solomon informed FAP that the administration wants to invite Provost Soboyejo, Dean Camesano and Stacie Chiaramonte to discuss online graduate education programs.
- The meeting ended at 16:15.

Respectfully submitted,

George D. Pins, Secretary,

pro tem