

College of Education
College Council Monthly Meeting
February 4, 2008
11:00 -- 12:00 Noon
CARE Conference Center
Minutes

1. Call to order

Meeting convened at 11:13 by Chairman Paul Villas. In attendance: Alcione Ostorga, Michael Guerrero, Karen Watt, Francisco Guajardo, Laura Saenz, and Chair Villas.

2. Announcements

3. Approval of November Minutes

Minutes approved.

4. Old Business

a. Office Space for Senior Faculty? (Dean)

Paul mentioned issue of parking spaces, particularly UTPA taking 10 student parking spaces and replacing them with 6 handicapped spaces, which are frequently empty. It was mentioned that this is a compliance issue.

5. New Business

a. Examine needs assessment and prioritize activities from the categories that resulted from the faculty 2006 workshop.

Council discussed six broad issues that Council worked with in the past year and determined that the six have set part of the agenda of Dean Ochoa. So, the work of the Council has had an impact, but there's more work to be done. Council will refocus energy on the six issues and use that to inform agenda for Council.

Six issues were divided to be further developed by Council members. Karen will work on #1: using and accessing resources; Laura will work on #2: developing mentoring and induction support; Santiago will work on #3: creating professional developing opportunities; Paul on #4: Improving communication; Michael and Francisco have #5: building relationships for collaboration; Alcione has #6: building structures for collaboration.

Discussion opened on scheduling. Can CC do something about raising awareness regarding fairness in scheduling process? Transparency needed. Can we deal with the bigger issues of culture within departments, rather than the specific technical issues?

b. Other

Issue of faculty evaluation rubric called into question. Can Council see these called of forms before they're made official? Dean Ochoa seems agreeable, but also spoke to need for uniformity and equity in evaluation process. Dean will use the form but will also include a cover letter explaining possibility of flexibility in evaluation for different teaching styles/approaches.

6. Report from the Dean

Plan submitted by Council regarding spaces for senior faculty was not approved because of ADA issues. Alternatives are being studied. Dean met with architect Jaime Condit to discuss this issue.

Dean has developed plan on how to use research assistants. He will email the plan to Council. Equity will be a focus. GIT funds coming to COE amount to \$128K to hire research assistants. The plan is to hire 20 RAs in fall and another 20 in the spring. This will be funded through GIT money.

Dean convened workshop with assistant professors and treated them to dinner last Friday night. Workshop focused on the tenure process and other pertinent business. Next session with junior faculty will focus on vision and direction for college. Also, Dean will bring associate professors together to talk about promotion to full professor.

Dean Ochoa will be evaluated from June 1st to August 31st 2007, because of his short tenure.

7. Discussion

8. Date of Next Meeting (Discussion)

March 3 at 11:30; April 7 at 11:30; May 5 at 11:30

9. Open Forum

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.