

MINUTES (approved 23 Sep 08)
Academic Affairs Committee
Emporia State University
9 September 2008
PKP Room, Memorial Union, 3:30 pm

Present: Evandro Camara, George Durler, Heidi Hamilton, Monica Kjellman-Chapin, Ann Miller, Dwight Moore, Ann O'Neill, Christy Schreck, Manjula Shinge, Heather Wade

Substitutions:

1. Meeting was called to order by Dwight Moore at 3:30
2. The minutes of 26 August were approved as distributed.
3. Weapons Policy: Academic Affairs was charged with writing the weapons policy as a bill that could be approved by the senate and signed by the president, thus converting an interim policy into a permanent policy. It seems that there is little in the policy that can be changed as the policy comes from the Board of Regents and we cannot have a policy that is substantially different from theirs. It was felt that we could add a sentence that would codify how the Board is to be notified of weapons on campus. Moore reported that he had talked with Tracy Green, the General Counsel for ESU, about some provisions in the policy. Moore reported that Green stated that the interim policy as written to include the field station, natural areas, or any situation involving student trips. She also stated that recognized student organizations would be covered under the "approved university activities". Moore will write a draft of the bill and bring it to the next committee meeting.
4. Strategic Plan: Kjellman-Chapin reported that she went to the open forum. She reported that the order of items is not meant to convey a sense of priority for those items. She also reported that the mission, vision, and core values will not change because they have already been approved by the task force and presented to the Board of Regents. The strategic themes are tied to the mission, but those five themes, the goals, and objectives will all be reexamined in light of the feedback from the open forums. It is unlikely that a theme will be totally changed, but significant editing is a possibility based upon what is said in the forums. The committee reviewed the strategic plan for items that might involve faculty senate action, especially from academic affairs. Goal 1.2.2 deals with the curriculum review process and this generated quite a discussion about examples where the process seems rather cumbersome but no suggestions were forthcoming as to how to fix it. Moore will distribute the CRP policy before the next meeting. Other items that might come under the purview of AAC were advising in goal 1.5, interdisciplinary teaching in goal 1.7.1, and study abroad programs in goals 3.2.2 and 3.2.3.
5. Teaching Evaluations: Members of AAC described ways in which the student evaluations of teaching are used in their departments. There is some sense that there should be more to evaluating teaching than simply a numerical score based on the teaching evaluations and that written comments can be quite subjective both in their creations by the students and in their interpretation for purposes of faculty recognition. Durler presented the policy from the School of Business. The committee will see how our efforts can be coordinated with those of faculty affairs committee, who is taking the lead on this issue.
6. Adjournment: Meet adjourned at 4:50.