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Faculty Senate Bill 061.11/12: Summer Teaching Assignments (Expanded Version)

Armstrong Atlantic State University

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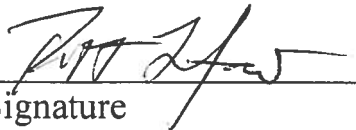
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Armstrong Atlantic State University
Faculty Senate Bill 061.11/12: Summer Teaching Assignments
(Expanded Version)

Presidential Action

Delivered:


Signature

2/22/12
Date


Approve: _____

Disapprove: ☒ _____

Remand: _____

Comments: (please attach an additional sheet if necessary)

See attached.

Signature:  Date: 3/18/12
Dr. Linda M. Bleicken, President
Armstrong Atlantic State University

Faculty Senate Bill 061.11/12: Summer Teaching Assignments (Expanded Version)

We, duly elected senators of the faculty of Armstrong Atlantic State University, request the president put in place a policy whereby department heads, deans, and others similarly charged with assigning Summer Term courses offer those courses first to qualified full-time faculty prior to offering them to part-time or adjunct faculty.

This policy would not supersede any regulation pertaining to the number of courses a faculty member would be allowed to teach in the Summer Term or the amount of income a faculty member could earn in the Summer Term.

This policy would seek to establish, through department head and faculty negotiation in each department, (a) the qualifications that would provide an expertise beyond that which is available in the current and usual qualifications of the department's full-time faculty, and (b) the regularly established practices in each department that identify those full-time faculty members who normally teach a course in question and the process by which those faculty are selected.

Armstrong Atlantic State University Faculty Senate Actions

February 2012 Meeting

Response from Dr. Bleicken

Faculty Senate Bill 061.11/12 Summer Teaching Assignments

As with Senate Bill 057.11/12, this bill requests that the "President put in place a policy whereby department heads, deans, and others similarly charged with assigning Summer Term courses offer those courses first to qualified full-time faculty prior to offering them to part-time faculty."

Further, this bill asks that "This policy would seek to establish, through department head and faculty negotiation in each department, (a) the qualifications that would provide an expertise beyond that which is available in the current and usual qualifications of the department's full-time faculty, and (b) the regularly established practices in each department that identify those full-time faculty members who normally teach a course in question and the process by which those faculty are selected."

The concern voiced by several members of the Senate that financial considerations would take precedence in the assignment of summer courses is taken seriously. The deans and department heads are responsible for constructing a summer schedule that balances expenses, course selections, and teaching assignments. The university depends on revenue from the summer semester for the support of the fiscal year budget, which includes the fall and spring semesters. As discussed with the deans and the Senate Planning, Budget, and Facilities Committee, the university budget plans for a revenue contribution of \$1.9 million from the summer semester. If the summer semester produces less revenue, the university budget would be downsized in the remainder of the fiscal year.

This bill cannot be approved. We cannot hinder the ability of department heads and deans to manage the summer term. However, faculty in each department should be involved in the discussion of summer offerings, and department heads should explain how teaching assignments are made. Where possible, Armstrong faculty should be given the first opportunity for summer teaching; the final decisions rest with the department head, dean, and Vice President/Provost to ensure that the summer schedule meets the needs of students and fiscal responsibilities to the university.