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Notes from Ad Hoc Task Force on Faculty Governance Meeting

Georgia Southern University

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Notes from Ad Hoc Task Force on Faculty Governance Meeting of 9-23-10

Attending: Ken Clark, Henry Eisenhart, Robert Vogel, Ron McKinnon, Mark Welford, Pat Walker, Michael Moore, Richard Flynn, Fred Smith, Jean Bartels

Points made and questions asked:

- The Faculty Handbook says that all units' promotion and tenure guidelines should be on the Web.
- Q: What will our report to the Senate look like? A: Part of it will identify best practices, part of it a list of recommendations.
- What we already know we want to recommend: each college should establish a small faculty body to act as a liaison between the dean and the faculty at large. Membership should be elected. We know it should be made clear that t and p criteria are originated at the departmental level.
- There is a new form that tracks the promotion and tenure decision at every level. Reviewers are now required to express reasons for their decisions.
- Chair Flynn noted that he had seen posted on SharePoint a number of college and departmental promotion and tenure guidelines and bylaws. While those are helpful, he said that what would be more helpful would be a description of the procedure used to write the documents. Also, if faculty in a department wanted to make changes to their promotion and tenure documents, what options would they have? At that point in the meeting, the Task Force members went around the table describing their procedures.
- The grant requirement was at issue. The point was made that the procedure followed to arrive at the grant requirement was not in keeping with what the Task Force sees as best practices. Requiring a certain type of scholarship could be viewed as an infringement of academic freedom, one person stated.
- As an AAUP member, Michael Moore had been asked to see if any AAUP documents had language that the Task Force might incorporate. Michael reported that our current Faculty Handbook has apparently borrowed heavily from AAUP. In fact, it was said that one recommendation that the Task Force should make is simply that all colleges should read and follow what was already written in the Handbook.

For next meeting: Task Force members should write what they see as the recommendations the Task Force should make. We will compare notes at the next meeting. Task force members are welcome to upload suggestions for recommendations to a folder on the sharepoint site designated for that purpose.

Next Meeting: October 28, 4 pm, COE Conference Room