Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting 2/15/21

Attendance:
Mario  Jean-Paul  Michael  Maggie Abraham  Elisabeth Ploran
Brian  Rebecca  Elisabeth Schlegal  Holly  Sylvia

1) The Minutes were approved
2) Agenda Item #1 - Creating an adjunct recognition system for faculty.
   a) It was decided that the recognition system should be separate from the Faculty’s recognition system.
   b) The committee discussed that there are challenges to creating a blanket system of recognition, considering different schools and departments have different relationships with adjunct faculty.
      i) Law School, Medical School, and Business school have a different relationship with adjuncts than other schools, and therefore recognition in areas would be different than other faculty.
   c) The committee decided to create an ad-hoc volunteer committee to discuss how to proceed.
   d) Action Items:
      i) FAC will create a google doc to assemble a list of volunteers.
      ii) FAC should reach out to Institutional Research to conduct a study about the impression adjuncts make on students vs. full-time faculty (considering students engage adjunct faculty at the beginning of their career, whereas upper-level coursework is studied primarily with full-time faculty EXCEPT FOR the previously mentioned schools).
3) Agenda Item #2 - Creating a “recognition system” for faculty and innovation.
   a) The committee was originally tasked with discussing “use of technology” but decided to pivot toward “innovation” since technology takes on different forms AND different faculty use technology in different ways.
      i) By focusing on technology only, we miss out on new “innovations” faculty may be incorporating.
      ii) Institutional Research should conduct a survey of remote-learning students to get their feedback about how their instructors were “innovative.”
   b) Action Items:
      i) The FAC will create another committee to discuss the criteria for this recognition system further.
         (1) One primary question the committee will address is: Does this include Graduate Students/Graduate Instructors, or undergraduate only?
4) Agenda Item #3 - FAC’s (and the Faculty as a whole) role in the renovation of the Continuing Education Program at Hofstra University.
a) The committee discussed the different roles the faculty could have in the formation/reformation of the continue education program.
b) The committee agreed that the FAC would like to have input in the academic aspects of the program, but only after a framework had been created by the program's reformers.
c) The committee agreed that the program should not offer college-level credits, but instead create some kind of other accreditation system.
   i) After later discussion with Kevin Boston-Hill, the chair of the Undergraduate Affairs Committee, there was a suggestion that the “badging” system might be a good application to this program, and Kevin would be speaking with Melissa Connolly, one of the Continuing Ed Program's coordinators.
   ii) There was also an agreement that by keeping continuing education program separate from the university’s traditional operations, there would not be any labor dispute with the Union and/or the contract.
5) New Business:
   a) There was no new business.