

Lincoln University of Pennsylvania Faculty Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 7, 2004
Multi-purpose Room of the Student Union Building

Dr. Nelson convened the meeting 4:11 PM.

I. REPORT FROM THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION . . . Mr. Abraham Hoff, Jr., SGA President

Mr. Hoff thanked professors for working late with students. He noted that one professor stayed until 1:30 AM to help a student. He also noted that faculty had responded to the call to keep the campus clean. For instance, Drs. Millette and Bradt had helped students clean up around Dickey Hall. Mr. Hoff stated, "I acknowledge all the faculty for their good work."

Then, Mr. Hoff noted some of the Student Government Association's (SGA) accomplishments and remaining concerns. For instance, the SGA instituted several book scholarships. In addition, Mr. Hoff called on faculty to try to lower textbook prices and use more used books.

II. REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT . . . Dr. Ivory Nelson

Dr. Nelson first acknowledged the efforts of the Lincoln University basketball team, which played to a full house at the Manuel Rivero Gym and beat Cheney University for the first time in 11 years. He also encouraged everyone to continue to support the Lincoln University basketball team. Dr. Nelson also explained that while the infrastructure project provided new pipes that more efficiently pump steam, the many buildings on campus need renovation especially the old regulators. For instance, the regulators in Dickey Hall's computer lab needs to be replaced to maintain comfortable temperatures in the room, which we will find the money to do. To explicate the complexity of the problem, Dr. Nelson remarked that in the LLC dining room the temperature on the floor is 64° Fahrenheit while the temperature in the same room is 78° Fahrenheit near the ceiling.

Dr. Nelson then referred to the document entitled, "Academic Reform Action Plan" that was handed out to the participants at the meeting. There are 11 Board of Trustees resolutions passed on November 20, 2004 that pertain to academics. Also, he noted that Academic Affairs needs to include the 11 resolutions as part of its strategic plan and that the Board of Trustees would have a chance to reaffirm the Visions, Mission, Goals and Philosophy of the University in April of 2005. He noted that the Middle States Monitoring Report would be October 1, 2005. The Middle States Evaluation visit will be 2007-2008.

With regard to the Education Department, the state will evaluate the program in February 2005 and once that is finished the Education Department will apply for NCATE accreditation. As we move forward, in those programs where there are relevant accrediting agencies Lincoln University is going to have to be accredited by them. Also, every discipline should bring the honor society for that discipline on campus.

III. Action Items Grant D. Venerable, II, Ph.D., Vice-President for Academic Affairs

A. Approval of Minutes from the November 9, 2004 meeting--the minutes were approved pending the following correction: in Section II, B, 1 the minutes should read "a potential concentration in Graphic Arts" instead of "a concentration in Graphic Arts."

B. Recommendations from the Curriculum and Educational Policies Committee. Mr. Reginald Myrick

Mr. Myrick: We met on November 18, 2004 and we decided to approve the new curriculum for the M. Ed. Biology program and bring it before the faculty. The body voted to approve the M. Ed. Biology program

C. Recommendation from Committee on Admissions, Academic Standing and Financial Aid on SAP Policy Dr. William Bynum & Dr. Gwinyai Muzorewa

Dr. Bynum proposed that the faculty make the following change to the satisfactory academic progress policy:

Current text: Academic Suspension: A student who is not achieving Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) will be placed on academic suspension and will not be eligible to enroll in Lincoln University. The occurrence of Academic Suspension is recorded on the transcript of a student.

Changed text: Academic Suspension: A student who is not achieving Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) at the end of the fall term will be placed on progress probation. The occurrence of Progress Probation is not recorded on the transcript of a student. Subsequently, a student who is not achieving SAP at the end of the academic year will be placed on academic suspension and will not be eligible to enroll in Lincoln University. The occurrence of Academic Suspension is recorded on the transcript of a student.

Dr. Poe asked if Dr. Bynum could give some of the reasons for the proposed change.

Dr. Bynum: There is a very short timeframe in which to notify students. In addition, it is sometime difficult to get the committee together between the fall and spring semesters.

Dr. Chapp expressed the concern that no criteria will eliminate students in the lower division leading to the retention of juniors who are failing almost all their courses.

Dr. Chikwem: What Dr. Bynum is addressing are problems surrounding getting the committee together during the holidays.

Dr. Walton: We should worry about giving false hope to those students who have a mathematical impossibility of obtaining a satisfactory grade point average before the end of the academic year.

Dr. Bynum: Even without the change the committee still can allow for "mathematical impossibilities" because of extenuating circumstances.

Professor Jones: Students with a lot of "Fs" are often the most troublesome students in class.

Dr. Nelson: It is most probable that 90 percent of the students will be readmitted on progress probation by the committee even with no change in the policy.

Dr. Poe: This policy change has a number of different ramifications: one is that there might be a bias against students that are on progress probation.

The faculty voted to approve the above change in the SAP.

D. Approval of December Graduate List Mr. James Simington

The faculty voted to approve the December Graduate List subject to modifications as necessary.

E. Recommendations from the Nominations CommitteeDr. Lennell Dade

Dr. Dade: The nominations committee recommends that Dr. Sekoni replace Dr. Hoogeveen for the spring semester because Dr. Hoogeveen will be on sabbatical during the spring semester. The body approved the recommendation from the nominations committee.

IV. Discussion Items

A. Academic Integrity Committee Ms. Nancy Kenner

Ms. Kenner remarked on the need for academic integrity to be addressed in the Student Handbook. Dr. DeBoy noted there is a Faculty Academic Integrity statement that is to be included in all syllabi.

V. Announcements

Dr. Nelson wished everyone a Happy Holidays and invited everyone to enjoy the refreshments and live music.

The meeting was adjourned at 5: 19 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Donald J. Bradt Faculty Secretary