

**Lincoln University
Faculty Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 9, 2007**

Dr. Ivory Nelson called the meeting to order shortly after 4 PM in the Dickey Hall Auditorium.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nelson welcomed the faculty back to campus after the winter break.

The Student Union Building has been vacated for renovations, with offices relocated to the temporary modular buildings and to other locations on campus.

Dr. Nelson commented on the current political state of affairs in the Commonwealth: the Democratic-majority House of Representatives has elected a Republican Speaker, who has guaranteed that all committee chairs will be Democrats; the Senate remains Republican majority. Senator Dominic Pileggi (R), the Floor Leader, is on the Lincoln University Board, as is Rep. Dwight Evans (D), Chair of the House Appropriations Committee.

ACTION ITEMS

The Minutes of 12/05/06 were approved, as posted on website.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Middle States:

Dr. James DeBoy distributed a handout, Middle States Assessment of Student Learning, and discussed it. He noted that the federal government is putting pressure on accrediting bodies such as Middle States regarding student outcomes, and this pressure is being passed along to the accredited institutions. The bottom line is that unless the Lincoln University faculty take responsibility for student outcomes, someone from outside will. The Lincoln University faculty have the responsibility and the expertise to identify/determine desired outcomes, to do assessments, and to compare actual outcomes with goals. They will then need to use the findings to – when necessary – change goals, change methods, and/or change content.

Dr. DeBoy also distributed a double-sided handout, dated 12-6-06. One side consists of a chart showing assessment methods used by each department during the 2006/07 academic year, and the other side has a chart showing Lincoln University's Core Curriculum Matrix. He noted that the Assessment Methods piece is based on six weeks of collecting information from department chairs and other faculty members, but is not a complete document.

Dr. Patricia Joseph followed up with a few comments. She noted that the idea of assessment isn't going to go away, and that the easiest way to approach it is to start by looking at course syllabi. We need to approach the problem systematically. To facilitate the process there will be an Assessment Day, scheduled for the students' Study Day in April at the end of the term.

Dr. Joseph stated that all Middle States Task Force reports are due by the end of this month (January).

B. Faculty Bylaws

Dr. Lennell Dade presented a report from the Faculty Bylaws Committee (herself, Dr. Daryl Poe and Mr. Albert Bryson), distributing a draft of the committees proposed changes to the Bylaws. She also directed faculty to the Academic Affairs website to see the drafts online, in color (most recent 12/2/06). Committees have been combined and in some cases eliminated, reflecting changing needs and a shrinking faculty. Proposed changes came out of a number of specially scheduled faculty meetings called by the committee.

Jason Esters (Mass Communications) raised the concern regarding elimination of the Writing Assessment Committee. He stated that it is important to keep all faculty, across the board, involved in this issue. He recommended keeping the committee, revamping membership, and renewing its charge.

Dr. Dade stressed that Bylaws are legal document and proposed a final special meeting around January 20 to make decisions.

Dr. Nelson recommended that faculty work with him, since he is the person charged with making recommendations for Bylaws changes to the Board. He urged faculty to get any thoughts and ideas to the committee quickly.

Dr. Dana Flint noted that Bylaws require 10-days advance notice before any faculty vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The nomination form for the Board of Trustees' three Distinguished Professor Awards (for service, for teaching, and for scholarship/research) is now online.

The Looking At: Jazz, An American Art Form film and discussion series will start on Thursday, January 25, 2007 (flyers distributed)

Dr. Mel Leaman's presentation of a humorous video from Saturday Night Live depicting a student meeting with his professor at the end of the term brought the meeting to a close on a lighter note.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 5 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Gunn Pevar, Faculty Secretary