

Governance and Personnel Policy Committee of Faculty Senate
Tuesday, October 10, 2017
Faculty Collaborative Conference Room, D.H. Hill

Attendees: Karen Bullock, Marina Bykova, Kerry Havner, Paul Huffman, Doug Pearce, Donna Carver, Ron Sederoff, Phil Sannes

Guest: Dr. Courtney Thornton, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Personnel and Policy

Discussion: COACHE Faculty Satisfaction Survey

As a follow-up to the first Committee meeting of the year, the COACHE survey was discussed. Dr. Courtney Thornton provided relevant materials and attended the meeting.

- For purposes of our discussion, the committee focused on governance issues. It was clear from the survey that while there was favorable ratings for departmental and university leadership, there was less satisfaction for divisional/college level. It was suggested that this may be due in part to lack of transparency in the distribution of wealth at the college level. There seemed to be widely held suspicions that this was due to how deans use discretionary funds and/or F&A. It was agreed that this gave the appearance of budgetary inconsistencies and a lack of accountability. These perceptions varied greatly between colleges, with some good and others not so good.
- Differences between colleges in the application of discretionary and/or F&A funds to space rental extended this topic. There seemed to be variances in “subsidies” for space use, and that it even appeared to be building specific. Questions were then raised about what is reasonable for faculty to know about such funding transactions, and whether transparency in this arena was ever possible.
- The intersection of governance and satisfaction issues brought a discussion of scholarly reassignment vs sabbatical leave. Pros and cons of how NC State handles this issue were discussed, and that it would appear to conflict with the land grant university tradition. There were questions raised as to why it’s not called “sabbatical leave”, and that it seems to be engrained as such in its culture.
- The meeting concluded with a discussion about future meetings. We have been unable to get responses to email requests for Dr. Mary Lelik, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Strategy and Resource Management, to speak with us about Academic Analytics. Contact by phone will be the next strategy with the meeting on Oct 24 the target.