

Report from the USG Faculty Council - November 13, 2009

1. Council status: The USG Faculty Council is a new committee composed of representatives from Faculty Senates and similar organizations from the USG institutions. This group will report regularly to the Chancellor's office about faculty concerns, which is similar to the existing Student Council and Staff Council. It is anticipated that this new committee will be formally recognized by the BOR in December.
2. The proposed two-year college & technical college merger: The governor's "Tough Choices, Tough Times" working group has proposed merging the two-year USG institutions with the technical college system. There were a number of concerns about this proposed merger, including mission differences, transfer issues, and increased expenses. A similar merger done in Kentucky about 10 years ago has not worked well. The council passed a proposal that recommends either 1) leaving the two systems the way they are or 2) merging the technical colleges into the USG. This issue will be considered by the state legislature in January.
3. Expansion of the mini-core: The technical colleges intend to increase the number of college course offerings beyond the current "mini-core" of ENGL 1101, 1102 and MATH 1110/1111/1113. The expanded mini-core calls for adding ENG 2130 (American Literature), ECO 1101 (Principles of Economics), PSY 1101 (Introductory Psychology), SOC 1101 (Introductory Sociology) and SPC 1101 (Public Speaking) to the current mini-core offerings. This movement was described as "mission creep" in the technical colleges. This issue has apparently been decided without substantive input from USG institutions. The advisory committees of various disciplines have already been asked to approve syllabi for the proposed courses. The Regents advisory committee is set to approve these new courses in the summer of 2010.
4. ADP: Many institutions have experienced great difficulty in switching to ADP. Several members of the council questioned whether the centralization of resources is really saving money. They are working on a draft of a proposal to slow future centralization efforts or implement them after greater testing.
5. Faculty compensation: The council is working on a furlough statement that focuses on how furloughs have a greater percentage impact on 10 month faculty compared to administrators that are on 12 month contracts. There was also concern that declining pay and benefits will have detrimental effects on USG faculty. Proposals are being drafted for both furloughs and compensation issues.
6. Lecturers: Current USG policy on the renewal of contracts for lecturers is structured so that lecturers can be given little to no warning that their contracts are not being renewed. The council is working on a proposal to give lecturers more time for nonrenewal notices.

More details on these issues are available on the web at the following sites:

<http://apache.northgeorgia.edu/Academic/Senate/USGFC/index.html>

http://info.gcsu.edu/intranet/univ_senate/USGFC_Nov2009/index.htm

Gary Fisk