Faculty Senate Finance Committee

Final Report 2010 - 2011

Committee Senators: Figliola (Chair), Chapman, Goddard, Hewitt, Meriwether, Morris, Wang

The Committee met on the third Tuesday of each month in Room 215 Fluor-Daniel at 2:30PM.

Compensation Report Study (Lead: Wang)

The Annual Compensation Report was released in February, 2011. It incorporated changes developed over the past few years to elaborate on salary changes. The Committee is still engaged in discussions to include a total compensation column to the Annual Report.

University Budget Flow (Lead: Figliola; Second: Goddard)

The Committee was represented on the University Budget Accountability Committee (BAC) by Senator Figliola. Highlights this year included visits to the Senate by CFO Brett Dalton to present a primer on money flows at the University and elaborate on Budget expenditures versus Budget Resources by general category.

University International Programs Study (Lead: Morris)

The Committee requested a report on the financial aspects of International Programs. Vice Provost David Grigsby made a presentation to the Senate on his office budget details and activities. We learned that each College also has international study activity but he did not provide details of those costs and incomes. He reported that program assessment processes were planned.

Lab Fees and Other Fees (Lead: Meriwether)

Continued studies into lab fee use has returned mixed results. The intent for lab fees is to recover direct operating expenses of operating a lab. Half of lab fees collected are retained by the Provost and used for facility renovation, a procedure approved by the Trustees. That portion is clearly accounted for. The other half of the collected fees are returned to the Colleges for distribution to the Departments and distributed on the basis earned. That portion is clearly accounted for. The review found mixed results on how fees were actually being used at the college and department levels. There is not a clear accounting for fees at the lower levels with a portion of fees being used for central college administration and a portion of fees used by chairs in covering other department operating expenses.

The growing list of added student fees merits the question: how is the amount of a fee assessed, what is the process for adding a fee, and how are the acquired funds actually used. The question will be addressed in the 2011 – 2012 period.

Sabbatical Policy (Lead: Figliola)

At its February meeting, the Senate approved a change to the wording of the Sabbatical Policy, with opposition. The new policy brings to issue the legality of external compensation beyond “consulting and honoraria”, the procedure for receiving approval for other types of external compensation, and the process needed for legally receiving compensation from another institution while on sabbatical leave. A key point is that faculty on sabbatical are often compensated for duties within their areas of competence at the host institution, which could be considered “employment,” such as teaching classes or engaging in research activity.
Faculty who are on sabbatical leave are still considered employees of Clemson University and, therefore, may not be employed by another entity. Faculty on sabbatical leave are, however, eligible to engage in outside professional consulting or receive honoraria, in accordance with the University’s consulting policy and provided such activities pose no conflict of interest to the University.

Senator Figliola (with President-elect Warner) have met with University counsel in attempts to clarify the definitions of employment and types of compensation allowed, and for setting up a simple process for granting administrative approval for any faculty compensation that may be considered as a form of employment, albeit it temporary. Counsel is working with the Senate and considering changes to the Sabbatical Request form and clarification language. The action will be addressed in the 2011 – 2012 period and forwarded to Policy, as appropriate.

Other Business:

Sales and Use Tax requirements (Lead: Chapman)

The South Carolina sales and use tax policy on departmental purchases was reviewed and the policy clarified for faculty information. Items purchased for research purposes that include equipment or are related to equipment are exempt from sales and use tax and a form for that purpose is on the Office of Sponsored Programs website. The Committee found that many faculty were not aware of this exemption and provided a reminder with a link to the appropriate form.