The Lincoln University
Faculty Meeting
Tuesday, September 2, 2014, Ware Center Theater

MINUTES

Dr. Denise Wilbur
Vice President for Academic Affairs (Interim)
Presiding

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Wilbur at 11:03 am.

I. President’s Report

• President Jennings reiterated the need for faculty to contact continuing students in their majors who have not returned for Fall 2014.
• The “Black Family Rocks” event was a great success and brought many new people to visit our campus.
• Enrollment for Fall 2014 is currently 607 students short of our goal, which translates into a $12 million potential loss in revenue for the university. Freshman enrollment is up by 74. There are 1,174 paid students in the dormitories, down 229 from Fall 2013. The President noted that many students will return, however, after Labor Day.
• New federal and state regulations will “grade” universities on a number of scales that will be posted on public web sites.
• There is a need for faculty to serve as class advisors. They will be paired with staff and meet at least four times a year.
• 71% of our students’ parents who applied for the Parent Plus loan program were denied. The current program guidelines look at credit records for the past five years, but that will be changed to a two year window, and applicants will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
• The Reaffirmation Task Force will consider seven standards (consolidated from the previous 14) for review in the 2017-2018 review. The biggest concern is the school’s financial picture, including declines in enrollment and the drop in the endowment balance.
• Questions and Responses from Faculty
  o Prof. Gaither-Hardy noted that the American Council on Education (ACE) is providing programs to assist students in completing college applications
  o Prof. Cyrus Jones raised questions about the physical upkeep of the university, citing examples of student printers and the pool heater not working
  o Dr. Bradt asked why faculty do not have keys to their buildings. President Jennings said he was not aware of the problem.

II. Action Items

• Dr. Wilbur reported that 1,808 students registered as of the latest count, however not all are cleared financially. Undergraduate enrollment is 1,554. These numbers are close to the goal for Fall 2014.
• Minutes from the May 6, 2014 Faculty Meeting were approved as submitted.

III. Reports of Standing Committees
Promotion, Tenure, and Severance Committee—Dr. Babatunde was unable to show a PowerPoint presentation but said it would be distributed to all faculty. He emphasized the faculty members’ responsibility in meeting deadlines and requirements for consideration.

IV. Discussion Items

Constitution Day—Dr. Kwame and Dr. Ihejirika discussed plans for the event on Sept. 17, 2014 at 4 pm. Dr. Siddique suggested a focus on the implications of the Ferguson, MO incident last summer. Dr. Nagelberg suggested a faculty panel on different aspects of the Constitution as they apply to students and offered to make a presentation on the First Amendment. Police Chief Floyd suggested a colloquium on relationships between students, police, the community, and media outlets.

Developmental Studies Task Force—Dr. Tameze described a pilot study of MAT 098 and 099 that will be completed this fall. He suggested that ENG and EDU developmental courses may be combined at some point. He also noted that incoming freshmen may be able to take Placement Exams at home by computer in the future. Dr. Nagelberg noted that developmental courses are preventing a large number of Mass Communication students from graduating in four years, and many cannot take their first COM course until their junior year.

Teaching Circles—Dr. Stine, Mr. Donahue, and Ms. Evans presented the three topics for groups that will address course related issues: 1) Writing Across the Curriculum, 2) Using iPads, and 3) Online Learning. There was discussion on the online learning platform for this year and whether Moodle would be available for the Spring 2015 semester. Ms. Evans indicated that negotiations are still underway for the spring.

Writing Proficiency Program (WPP)—Dr. Gamie reported that the deadline for submissions will be 11/15/2014, the evaluation period will be 11/16/2014 to 11/30/2014, and results are due in her office by 12/10/2014. Dr. Gamie said tutoring is available from her office to help students prepare and that students must reflect on their writing and how it interacted with course objectives. She said sample critiques are also available.

V. Announcements

Enrollment Verification—Ms. Rutledge announced that roster verification would be done online through Web Advisor this semester using the Midterm Grade field (“P” for attended, “W” for non-attendance).

Dr. Tameze reported that a presentation on the Developmental Studies Task Force will be presented at the October faculty meeting.

Vice President Wilbur said all computer labs have been checked and are in working order. She also said that all recruitment efforts need to be coordinated through Vice President Lee’s office (e.g., high school programs).

Dr. Stine requested contributions to the “Teaching Matters” blog.

Dr. Langley announced that an LU-AAUP chapter meeting would commence immediately following adjournment.

A motion to adjourn was moved, seconded and passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Kenneth Nagelberg, Asst. Prof. of Mass Communication
Faculty Secretary