Faculty Development Council Meeting Minutes: March 19th, 2015

Present: Shadrack Msengi, Matt Schmitz, Elza Ibrorscheva, Jack Glassman, Lynn Bartel, Jamie Conklin, Serdar Celik
Absent: Belinda Carstens-Wickham, Jennifer Logue, Wayne Nelson, Ann Powell

Announcements: Bryan Smith, the chair of TEAC, visited to share updates on the awards. The committee has completed the review process and has awarded five awards—one teaching excellence, two distinctions and three teaching recognition awards. Those have been also reported to the Provost Office. Some concerns were raised about the nomination, application and nature of awards with the FDC. Namely, there have been suggestions of perhaps changing the monetary award associated with each category in order to encourage more participation. Also, the TEAC suggested perhaps establishing an award for online teaching only, as well as a lifetime achievement award. Finally, the Dental School has reached out to request that it has a representative on the TEAC. That matter needs to be voted by the FDC (at the time of the meeting, we did not have a quorum so we decided to table the vote until our next meeting). The FDC made a commitment to review the issues raised by TEAC and requested that TEAC collects some feedback from past nominees and award recipients in order to determine where improvements in the application process can be made.

Consideration of Minutes: The February 19th, 2015 Meeting Minutes were approved after small grammatical corrections.

Unfinished Business:
1. Discussion of the travel statement continued. Elza presented the following languages of the travel statements was discussed and voted on to present to the Faculty Senate at large:

   Travel (regional, national or international) is critical for the purpose of research and creative activities because it allows for the dissemination of scholarship, the establishment of future research collaborations, the advancement of one’s professional development and the enhancement of each faculty member’s reputation and network of support in his or her respective academic discipline. Travel also contributes to enhancing SIUE’s national and international reputation as an institution that supports and values the teacher-scholar model and maintains an active and rigorous scholarship and creative expressions. Travel is of paramount importance for the establishment and development of tenure-track and junior faculty members’ research agenda because future success at the university depends upon opportunities to network, solicit feedback on ongoing scholarship and creative activities and create new contacts in progressing towards establishing one’s academic reputation in the field. Faculty are committed to present evidence and documentation of how proposed travel plans will enhance one’s teaching, scholarship and creative activities and professional development and will follow due process in satisfying the university’s regulations and procedures set forth for funding travel requests. All official travel should be prudently planned so that the best interests of SIUE are served at the most reasonable cost. Anyone traveling on university business is expected to exercise the same economy that a practical person would exercise when traveling on personal business.

New Business:

1. Continuous Improvement Conference: The council discussed final details of the sessions of the conference. The conference was to be held the next day, March 20th, 2015, at the MUC Conference Center. Members of the FDC were encouraged to do last minute promotion so that we can maximize attendance and interest.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.