Library Faculty Senate

Meeting Minutes
2005-03-23

Present:

Convened:
9:03 am in Hamilton Library Room 113, the meeting was called to order by Christensen (Chair).

1. Discussion on the Revisions to the Library Senate Constitution and By-Laws.

Christensen thanked Senate members for coming and briefly introduced the purpose of the meeting as an informational session about the proposed revisions to the Library Senate Constitution and By-Laws. Voting will be by ballot next week and the revisions will need a two-thirds majority to pass.

Christensen indicated that there were a few comments on the revisions prior to this meeting: one typo on page 8, a question on adjusting the eligibility requirements for serving on the Elections Committee, and a question about whether only tenured librarians should be eligible to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Library Senate. The latter two suggestions were discussed and deemed important, but will be handled through additional stages of revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws. It was agreed that the purpose of the currently proposed revisions is to bring the wording of the Library Senate's documents in line with that of the University of Hawaii Board of Regents policies on shared governance, with the UH Manoa Faculty Senate's Charter, and with other national standards (such as those from ACRL).

Christensen briefed the members on the nature of the revisions. There are two types of changes: [1] revision of the wording of the Preamble and first three Articles of the Library Senate Constitution to be in line with that of the University of Hawaii Board of Regents policies on shared governance and with the UH Manoa Faculty Senate's Charter; and [2] housekeeping revisions, such as reorganizing, renumbering, and reformatting of the Constitution and By-laws.

There was also a suggestion to add "Scholarly Publishing" to the list of "fundamental academic areas" for which library faculty have primary responsibility in Article 2 Section 3. After discussion, it was decided to not include it because it is already covered in the Board of Regents policies. Also it was mentioned that library faculty are not limited to these areas and the list are just examples. The list is intended to identify examples of library-specific areas and not to replicate, augment, or substitute evaluative criteria such as in the Library Personnel Committee's Policies and Procedures. There was a brief discussion on how the Board of Regents Policies tend to use examples that illustrate instructional faculty roles and responsibilities.

Flynn and Christensen indicated that the guiding principle in the suggested revisions
was to keep wording nearly identical and parallel to that of the Board of Regents Policies and the Manoa Faculty Senate Charter. A charter or constitution describes the purpose of the organization, the role in operational-wide matters, and larger principles.

Christensen indicated that the revisions try to address areas of library operations where librarians need a prominent role in decision making and policy setting. The Library Senate Constitution can be used to cultivate an understanding of library faculty roles and responsibilities. It was pointed out that the BOR Polices sets the rules on who makes decisions and defines the types of decision making.

Flynn added that senates also make recommendations on administrative issues and enable issues to be heard as a group.

Flynn added that the library is an academic unit that reports to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and supports research and the curriculum. He also added that the list comes from ACRL.

2. Next Meeting

April 6, 2005

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

Submitted by Theodore Kwok, Secretary

LIBRARY SENATE
