Library Faculty Senate

Meeting Minutes
2011-01-25

Present:

Yati Paseng (chair), Gwen Sinclair (vice-chair/chair elect), Stu Dawrs (Secretary), James Cartwright (Manoa Faculty Senate), Carol Kellett (Manoa Faculty Senate), Ruth Horie (UHPA), Salim Mohammed, Joan Hori, Jodie Mattos, Sara Rutter, Patricia Polansky, Mabel Suzuki, Dongyun Ni, Sharon Ouchi, Allie Jordan, Mike Chopey, Eileen Herring, Jan Sung, Naomi Chow, Paul Adamson, Ross Christensen.

TOTAL ATTENDEES: 21

TOTAL VOTING MEMBERS: 21 NOTE: 16 voting Senate members are required for a quorum.

Convened: 10:05 am in Hamilton Library Yap Conference Room by Sinclair (vice-chair). Note: Paseng arrived late due to a scheduling conflict; Sinclair had previously agreed to conduct meeting in her absence.

1. Minutes of Nov. 23, 2010 approved unanimously.

2. Reports

Library Senate Chair: No report.

Vice-Chair: No report.

Secretary: No report.

Library Personnel Committee: Chopey reports that Susan Johnson will chair the LPC from January through August 2011. Chopey will chair committee from September through December 2011.

Elections Committee: No report.

Manoa Faculty Senate: Kellett: As Cartwright noted in an email recently, the MFS Committee for Faculty Service has put a motion on the floor of MFS to correct an imbalance in service terms for senators. The library is one of the affected campus units: Jim Cartwright has volunteered to serve an additional year on Senate. Kellett has already served two terms and is not eligible for reelection; when her term expires in April, a new library faculty member will be elected to a two year term. At that point, library representation will again be on staggered terms, as it is intended.

UHPA (Ruth Horie): Members are encouraged to check the website for news. Current items include legislative testimony supporting the Governor's right to appoint members of the Board of Education and the Jan. 1, 2011 premium increase for the Kaiser comprehensive health plan. For questions about the different health benefits, contact the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefit Trust Fund (EUTF).

UH and the All-Campus Council of Faculty Senate Chairs (ACCFC) sponsored a UH system budget workshop on Jan. 7-8, 2011. Presenters were Rudy Fichtenbaum, Professor of Economics with the Raj Soin College of Business at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, and Howard J. Bunsis, Professor of Accounting at Eastern Michigan University, who also holds a law degree. The materials
and video are posted on the UHPA site. The same materials are available to UH staff as well. On request of a faculty member, Howard Bunsis analyzed the budget of one of the community colleges, which was found to have an unusually high percentage of administrative costs. If there is interest, Horie will ask if such an analysis could be made for the Manoa campus.


Horie consulted with UHPA regarding the privacy of faculty travel information. Associate executive director Jim Kardash responded that for all state employees, personnel documents in the personnel file are confidential unless released by the individual. He suggested that we work with our faculty along with our administration to develop an equitable travel funding policy and monitor its implementation. He also suggested that if we feel that after repeated efforts, library administration has failed to address our concerns, we could ask to meet with the vice chancellor or the chancellor.

Horie attended the National Plan for Higher Education meeting in Los Angeles, Jan. 21-22, 2011. The meeting was coordinated by the California Faculty Association. Approximately 65 attendees from public higher education institutions in 21 states attended. Among the goals of the meeting were: to share thoughts and plan collective actions to increase funding for public higher education, ensure quality standards, preserve tenure-track positions, and enable meaningful faculty governance. Horie joined the working group on alliances with other organizations.

Draft principles and blog: http://qualityhighered.wordpress.com/

Chronicle of higher education, 1/23/11: http://chronicle.com/article/Faculty-Groups-Gather-to-Craft/126041/

3. Travel Funding

Sinclair: Library Senate Executive Board (LSEB) looked at additional information provided by Interim Associate University Librarian Alan Grosenheider after the last (Nov. 23, 2010) faculty senate meeting, following requests made at that meeting. During the January 11, 2011 LSEB meeting, concerns were raised over possible inaccuracies in the report, with it being impossible to know for certain given the anonymous nature of the report. During this meeting, the question of whether anonymity was contractually guaranteed for faculty. Horie subsequently followed up with UHPA on this question (see UHPA report above for results). Grosenheider’s additional information still does not clarify what priorities library administration is applying for granting funding (see minutes from 11/23/2010 for a more detailed discussion of the different travel funding sources). We can continue to ask the library administration for additional details, but at this point LSEB would like to ask the full senate how they’d like us to proceed.

Polansky notes that quite some time ago she was asked by library administration to be on a committee dealing with issue of travel funding. At the time, the committee suggested that some sort of mechanism be set in place whereby faculty senate and library administration could work together on determining funding awards. No such mechanism was ever established.

Cartwright: Perhaps LSEB should set up a committee that is charged with working with administration. We need to keep with administration to see if faculty can have some input into how funds are delegated.
General discussion ensues about the need to provide travel support not only to probationary faculty, but to all faculty -- that it is in the best interest of the library to support ongoing development of all faculty.

Sinclair: Are there any people who would be willing to be on such a committee? [Cartwright volunteers, Polansky says she would possibly be interested.]

Rutter: Wonders if this is a bigger issue than just the library, and whether or not it might be worth raising it outside the library as well.

Cartwright: Is willing to take the discussion to Manoa Faculty Senate, though he is not directly on the committee that would take it up. Will draft something and send via email to library faculty senate for input.

Sinclair: There is a need to have some clarification from administration as to what is worth funding and to also have administration to acknowledge that there is worth to tenured faculty participating in-person at off-island gatherings. We’ll look for more volunteers for committee [to work with library administration on a better, more transparent system of allocating travel funds] and LSEB will also continue to approach administration on how to better work collaboratively on this topic.

4. New Business

Sinclair: Has heard anecdotally that a formal reorganization announcement will be made in the third week of February.

Horie: Materials from the recent Budget Analysis Workshop are up on both the Manoa Faculty Senate and UHPA websites. (See UHPA report above for more on this topic.)

Cartwright: Best to watch the video of the budget presentation rather than simply downloading the powerpoint file, as the video gives much more context. Conclusion was that UH was never in financial trouble at the time of recent contract renegotiations; video helps to understand these details.

Kellett: Next meeting is currently scheduled for March 22, which is the week of Spring Break. All faculty will be on administrative leave and library will be closed.

Sinclair: Meeting will be rescheduled.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m..

Next meeting date to be announced.

Submitted by Stu Dawrs