Faculty Meeting Notes
Kit Otto, Faculty Observer

March 6, 2013 Meeting

The Faculty Welfare Committee brought a motion to the faculty in February that would have re-established the purposes and scope of the Faculty Grievance Resolution Committee. They proposed that, despite the fact that many grievances need the expertise of HR to adjudicate, “workplace bullying” was one area in which a faculty grievance committee might be appropriate. However in February, when they brought the complex motion outlining the grievance process, there were many comments and concerns. The motion was tabled until the March meeting. The comments continued at the March meeting and the motion was finally voted down.

Other motions: the approval of an “Afterschool Professional” certificate (motion from Elementary Education), and the approval of a motion from the Academic Affairs committee in the catalog section on “fair grading policies,” to limit the length of time that a student can request a grade review (and thereby limit the length of time a professor has to retain his grade documentation) to one year.

There was also a discussion about allowing some general education directions courses to double-count as courses that satisfy requirements for a student’s major.

April 3, 2013 Meeting

A motion from the Promotion, Tenure, and Evaluation Advisory Group brought lengthy revision to the evaluation sections of the faculty handbook. This document was discussed, and approved, although there were concerns expressed about the general accuracy of a description of a typical faculty “work week” as 60% teaching and 40% advising, scholarship and service. (There was a sense that a significantly higher percentage of time is spent on teaching.)

A discussion followed about a proposal to revise the requirements for general education directions courses, by (I think) allowing some courses required for a major to count as directions courses as well. PSU’s general education requirements continue to be pondered with an eye to “tuning them up” through tinkering and light repair, rather than trading the whole set in for a new version. I left the meeting while this discussion was still in progress.