

Clerk's Committee Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2015, 8:30-9:45 AM
Academic Dean's Conference Room / King Hall 101

Attending: Present: Zhihong Chen (Recording Clerk), Dave Dobson (Clerk), Sherry Giles (BP&SS), Edwins Gwako (Social Sciences), Adrienne Israel (Vice-President and Academic Dean), Tim Lindeman (Arts), Lisa McLeod (Humanities), Jeffrey Ray (SGA Representative), Steven Shapiro (Natural Sciences & Mathematics, recorder for this meeting). Not Present: Colin MacIntosh (Student Senate Representative).

1. The committee gathered near the appointed hour with a moment of silence.
2. The committee approved the Minutes from November 21, 2014.
3. Discussion: Changes to tuition remission policy – substance and process.
Several have expressed concern and are very troubled by the changes in this policy and how it was decided and announced. We do not know who made this decision. According to a member of the Benefits Committee, this committee has not discussed this topic. The President may be allowed to make such changes without faculty discussion or approval – depends on whether this policy is a “contractual” one. Regardless, such changes should be done with discussion with the community.

Some faculty with children applying to college this year, have not applied to some other colleges because they were counting on this full benefit. The benefit, that they have been counting on for many years, has been reduced such that faculty now expect to pay for room and board for their students. The change from allowing 128 credits to 8 semesters (and excluding summer and J-term) further limits student opportunities, especially CCE students.

Committee's summary position: While we understand the serious financial condition of the college, the committee is concerned about the reduction in tuition benefits for its employees announced in the Beacon on Friday, January 23. The committee has concerns about the impact of the new policy as well as the process through which it was implemented without prior discussion with faculty and staff, many of whom will be adversely affected by a sudden and unilateral change in policy. We would like to have further discussion about this decision before it is made final.

(Because of her position on the President's Cabinet, Adrienne Israel stood aside during preparation of this statement.)

4. Discussion: Schedule for February 4 faculty meeting
 - a. *QEP – ready for approval or discussion?*

- Steve will send, by the end of this week, a supporting document and “statement for approval” to Clerk’s committee review and approval in time to provide information to the faculty prior to the faculty meeting.
- b. *Jane on Enrollment restructuring*
 - Approved.
 - c. *Jane on Academic Dean process*
 - Approved.
 - d. *Other business?*
 - Steve will speak for 30 seconds to a minute about the first honorary degree recipient’s visit in April. Steve will respond to questions.