

Faculty Economics and Benefits Committee (FEBC)

Minutes, Thursday November 10, 2011

Present: D. Richards (Chair), J. Conant (as liaison from Senate Exec.), N. Corey, M. Green (as liaison from the budget office), L. Maule, T. Mulkey, L. Phillips, R. McGiverin, S. Shure.

Guest: Bill Mercier

Meeting began at 9:30.

Minutes from 10.27.11 approved (6:0:1)

Committee approved Diann McKee's report on health benefits (unanimous).

Summer Courses with Low Enrollments: FEBC is trying to track whether the University loses tuition money when summer courses are cancelled due to low enrollments. D. Richards found out from Tess Avelis that the only way to determine whether a student enrolls in another course after a course has been cancelled is to do a manual check by 991 number for each student for whom a class was cancelled, something her office is unable to undertake for all students affected. L. Maule suggested she have one of her graduate students complete the project; the issue is of concern to the Foundational Studies office as well.

Parking: Bill Mercier, Director of Public Safety, in attendance.

FEBC requested information from B. Mercier about the ramifications of changing parking fees to better accommodate people who teach part-time. Some only teach one course/semester but pay the full fee.

B. Mercier: The Board of Trustees approved parking as an auxiliary service. As a result, parking has to fund itself, any reductions in revenue would have to be made up somewhere else. If a policy like this were to go into effect, part-time students would probably want the same consideration. There is no charge after 5:00 so part-time faculty who teach at night do not have to pay at all. The current rate is \$125/yr; if we assume 150 teaching days/yr = \$.83/day. There are some hourly options (garage \$6/day). The Board of Trustees would have to approve any of the suggested changes.

S. Shure asked B. Mercier if he knew how many part-time faculty were paying fees; B. Mercier said he was not sure of the numbers.

M. Green asked about the logistics, just how would the Parking/Public Safety Office keep track of a faculty's full-time/part-time status? B. Mercier said his office can not track faculty that way now but may be able to charge a fixed rate based on how many hours a person is teaching.

D. Richards asked how Public Safety would respond to the proposed change. B. Mercier expressed concern, said the revenue would have to be made up and that it would be difficult, logistically, to put a variable rate plan in place.

L. Maule suggested another way to go about this would be to increase stipends.

M.Green said increasing stipends by \$100 to accommodate parking fees would not have much of an impact on faculty budget. The shift in numbers from part-time to full-time dramatically increased last year w/move to full-time contract so not a huge number of part-time faculty who would be affected.

J. Conant: If you roll the fee into their salary, it would be taxed and they would probably forget it was there.

M.Green: Can we tell, though, if they're part-time.

B. Mercier: Banner does not distinguish between faculty/staff (doesn't say part-time, full time).

T. Mulkey: Graduate students are hired as part-time faculty. Parking fee here are not as high as other places.

S. Shure: Is there a guarantee of parking in garage?

B. Mercier: ISU has access to half of the city garage, many spaces are available.

M. Green: the garage is underutilized

M. Green agreed to get a head count of part-time faculty.

T. Mulkey suggested that some lots be made 24 hr lots. The lot behind the library, for example, could be made a 24 hour lot for faculty who work on weekends. Library faculty and staff have some trouble finding spaces.

B. Mercier said the North lot is set up that way.

S. Shur asked about vandalism at the pay/staffed lots; B. Mercier said the lots employ a student worker after business hrs and that only one incident of vandalism has occurred.

L. Phillips asked about people using the Student Recreation Center. B. Mercier said that the North paylot is always an option for \$1/hr and hourly lot behind union is always available for non-ISU staff. Right now pay lots, B. Mercier said, are underutilized but there has been some discussion of putting in more pay stations. South lot other side of union will be a pay station lot once construction is finished and the pavilion lot across from Parsons hall will have a pay station as well.

R. McGiverin suggested that, in light of FEBC's recent discussions about providing incentives to stay healthy, if parking was more available and at better rates, especially in the summer time, people might take advantage of the SRC; he suggested an alternative rate structure during the summer.

D. Richards: nothing else on the agenda; right now issues we're working on are pending; he will call another meeting when FEBC has something actionable. L. Phillips wondering about VEBA, actions taken? Nothing beyond disseminating the information.

S. Shure: Should we schedule the same room for the spring?

L. Maule asked if any action had been taken on the motion to consider students enrolled 6 hours in a summer term full time? FEBC had made a motion at a previous meeting to recommend the change.

S. Shure: will leave room scheduling as is.

L. Maule wondered if FEBC would want to take up the issue of spousal and partner accommodations. Might we want to hire spouses as a kind of package deal? Would there be an economic benefit to the University in doing so? Is FEBC interested in pursuing this?

J. Conant will ask Steve Lamb if there's a charge re: spousal hires for FEBC. This might be a way to retain good faculty, something to explore.

L. Maule: as an extension of our role on the benefits committee; does FEBC want to do something more? Propose that we work on formulating changes in health insurance premiums based on smoking, weight, etc. and put this on the agenda for Dec. 1.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Phillips