AS&E Faculty Meeting, Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Schedule and Location

Wednesday, September 17, 2014, 12:00 PM – 1:20 PM
Coolidge Room, Ballou Hall
Light lunch, coffee, and water served at 11:30 AM

Agenda

Announcements

New Business

Open Nominations for T&P Committee Election
Ioannis Evrigenis, Chair of Committee on Committees

Discussion of EPC Proposal on Online Course Evaluations
Montserrat Teixidor, Educational Policy Committee

Discussion of the Move from Tufts Educational Daycare Center (TEDCC) to Bright Horizons
(Presentation from the Committee on Faculty Work/Life)
Elizabeth Remick and John McDonald, Co-chairs of the Committee on Faculty Work/Life

Adjournment

For Reference
*Please print all attachments and bring them with you to the meeting; a limited number of hard copies will be available at the meeting.

- Briefing Information
- EPC Proposal
- Open Letter to Tufts Administrators
- Appendices to the Open Letter to Tufts Administrators

Listings of future faculty meetings as well as the agenda and attachments for this meeting are online at http://ase.tufts.edu/faculty/meetings/.  

Below the Line Announcements

The September 19 and 21 concerts by the Boston Artists Ensemble are given in memory of Martin Guterman, late of the Department of Mathematics. They feature trios by Haydn, Dvorak and Shostakovich. More information at http://bostonartistsensemble.org/newton-concerts/ and http://bostonartistsensemble.org/salem-concerts/
Briefings

Announcements

The September 19 and 21 concerts by the Boston Artists Ensemble are given in memory of Martin Guterman, late of the Department of Mathematics. They feature trios by Haydn, Dvorak and Shostakovich. More information at http://bostonartistsensemble.org/newton-concerts/ and http://bostonartistsensemble.org/salem-concerts/

New Business

Open Nominations for T&P Committee Election

*Speakers:* Ioannis Evrigenis, Chair of Committee on Committees

*Summary:* Committee on Committees will facilitate an election for an Arts and Humanities representative to serve a full term on the T&P Committee starting May 1, 2014.

*Key Issues:* Due to the appointment of Kevin Dunn as vice provost after the spring 2014 election process, it is necessary to elect a faculty member from the Arts and Humanities to serve a three-year term on the T&P Committee from May 1, 2015 through April 30, 2018. The Committee on Committees will use Qualtrics to conduct the off-cycle election, and electronic balloting will be open from October 1-3.

*Action required:* Interested faculty members who are eligible for this election should contact Ioannis Evrigenis, Chair of Committee on Committees no later than Thursday, September 25, 2014.

*Further Information:* Please visit the committee election page for ballot and eligibility information: http://ase.tufts.edu/faculty/committees/elections/index.htm.

*Next Steps:* Election results will be announced at the AS&E faculty meeting on October 8, 2014.

Discussion of EPC Proposal on Online Course Evaluations

*Speaker:* Montserrat Teixidor, Educational Policy Committee

*Summary:* EPC proposes to make average numerical values from course evaluations available in Trunk to all faculty members, to new students, and to continuing students who filled out their teaching evaluations in the prior semester. We also propose to slightly extend the period during which evaluations can be submitted and to allow students to revise their submissions during that period.

*Key Issues:* Participation in on-line course evaluations is likely to decrease without some incentive to do so. At the same time, students obtain their information from websites like "Rate my Professor" that contain limited numbers of responses. The proposed solution appeals to students’ sense of civic duty to others, as their contributions should not only be useful to faculty members but also to their peers considering taking a class in the future.
Action required: Discussion of the proposal and vote, if appropriate. The current policy is that numerical values from course evaluations should be available to students. This policy has not been enforced recently but corresponds to the latest resolution voted by faculty.

Further Information: See attachment. If approved, Parts 1 and 2 of the attachment could be implemented for fall course evaluations. If approved, Parts 3 and 4 would be implemented in a future semester.

Next Steps: Vote on the proposal at the AS&E Faculty Meeting on Wednesday, October 8, 2014.

Discussion of the Move from Tufts Educational Daycare Center (TEDCC) to Bright Horizons
Presentation from the Committee on Faculty Work/Life

Speakers: Elizabeth Remick, Associate Professor of Political Science; John McDonald, Professor of Music; Ken Garden, Associate Professor of Religion

Summary: The administration announced in July its decision to cease operation of TEDCC and to lease the center to Bright Horizons effective September 1. The impetus of this decision appears largely to have been real liability issues. However, the decision-making process, characterized by a lack of consultation with stakeholders and experts on campus and the short-circuiting of a needs assessment study (already in progress with support from the administration), has resulted in some damage to Tufts faculty, employees, and community partners and the loss of a valuable tool for faculty recruitment and retention. What do we do now?

Key Issues: How to assure the best quality child care that meets current and future faculty, staff and student family needs now that the decision to close TEDCC and turn to BH has been made. How to forge a faculty governance procedure for important issues like this one so that proper consultation/due diligence in decision-making can take place.

Action required: Discussion of the open letter to President Monaco and the senior administrative team, attached, including the proposal to form a Provost-appointed task force charged with forging a long-term plan for childcare at Tufts that reflects adequate deliberation and participation in decision-making.

Further Information: Committee on Faculty Work/Life open letter to the administration on the topic, with faculty signatures and Appendices.

Next Steps: Awaiting administration's response to the proposal to form a task force. Further discussion at a Chairs Meeting November 5; discussion of ongoing concerns by faculty, chairs, administration, Work/Life Committee, and proposed Task Force. Work/Life Committee continuing work on Dependent Care Needs Assessment Study commissioned in spring of 2014; survey to be administered early in 2015.