

CUSF REPORT  
to the Faculty Senate  
17 September 2013  
Coppin State University

Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Joann Boughman reported several items of interest to faculty:

- A) There is an ongoing discussion across the system about improving retention by increasing need-based financial aid. This is based upon the idea that students drop out (or step out for a time) because they cannot afford to attend college. CUSF wants to be part of that discussion because a simplistic solution to a complex problem is almost useless!
- B) The System Student Council wanted a discussion of open-access textbooks. (In other words free texts, available on the web.) Using them in all courses would really help keep textbook prices down, right? Don't panic, yet. On November 5 there will be a meeting at USM to discuss this issue, consisting of 50-100 faculty from across the USM. The invitations and selections will be announced later. Stay tuned! CUSF thought the idea was terrible, by the way – at least in a number of major disciplines. Nobody liked the idea of there being a single, open-access text for all similar courses in the USM (All physics, all economics, all . . . well, you get the idea, such as it is.)
- C) The USM will be reviewing and likely making recommendations to the Regents to amend the ART (Appointment, Rank, Tenure) policies for faculty. I will probably be among the CUSF members serving on the committee to do the review and recommend changes. Again, stay tuned. This will take at least a year to accomplish. Apparently the problem is not with the traditional ranks, but all of the other ranks (visiting this-or-that, etc.).

Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance JoAnn Goedert had one interesting item:

Unpaid Student Internships. In particular, when are they legal (and do not violate the federal Fair Labor Standards Act)?

- A) The internship must have educational value or training. Making coffee for everyone doesn't count.
- B) It's important that the intern benefit, not merely the employer who gets cheap labor.
- C) It cannot displace a regular employee.
- D) It cannot involve deception (e.g. promising the intern a job at the end of the internship if the intern does a good enough job, etc.).

Note: This only pertains to for-profit (paid) internships.

Anyway, the Provosts will be discussing this issue, so this is a heads up.

If you have questions, please tell me which Jo-Ann it was!

Dave Parker  
20 September 2013