Minutes for FDAR council meeting, Oct. 8, 2015, 107 Lab of Mechanics

Present: Tim Derrick (Chair), Vern Schaefer, Chuck Schwab, Greg Stevenson, Eric Weber

Meeting called to order at 10:08 A.M.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from Sept. 24 approved

Committee Reports:

1) Recognition and Development Committee:
   a. Foreign Travel Grant proposals have been received, but the committee will not decide on awards until October 12 or 13.
   b. A question forwarded from Dawn Bratsch-Prince is how can there be more applications to and awards through the Big 12 Faculty Fellowship program. Comments from the Council members included: questioning whether visits must be at least two weeks in length, as this may prevent some faculty from applying to the program; can award amounts be increased, since the typical award amount would not cover expenses for a two week visit; a suggestion to announce the call for proposals through department chairs.

2) Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee: According to the Faculty Senate website, this committee has now been populated. However, the chair of the committee is still open.

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. The Executive Board of the Faculty Senate drafted a statement on Diversity and Inclusion. The Council reviewed the statement, with some members suggesting that the statement be shortened, and reworded so as not to imply that previous efforts were not made or not significant.

2. The Provost’s Office is requesting a change to the Faculty Handbook clarifying what “factual information” means in relation to dossier and recommendation materials that candidates for promotion/tenure can review and refute. The Council acknowledges issues that may arise from the ambiguity in the current language, but wants to ensure that any changes do not infringe on the rights of the faculty. No action was taken by the Council as Dawn Bratsch-Prince was not in attendance.

Good of the order - none
Meeting adjourned at 10:58 A.M.

Submitted by Eric Weber